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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64,433

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1992

45p



BATHROOM BEETHOVEN

Richard Ingram finds Classic FM's snippets of great music acceptable before breakfast

Life & Times Page 1



KITCHEN DIVINITY

Lynne Truss seeks, and finds, random cookery guidance from the family Bible

Life & Times Page 1



BEDROOM LAUGHTER

Michael Arditi, with the return to the West End of Ray Cooney, investigates farce

Life & Times Page 3



HOMELY PERSUASION

Elton John's appearance on French television was calculated to help the Maastricht 'yes' campaign

Page 10

Mandela mourns massacre victims

ANC demands dismissal of Ciskei's ruler

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN BISHO

THE African National Congress insisted yesterday that the Bisho massacre would stand in the way of constitutional negotiations until Brigadier Joshua Gqozo, the military ruler of Ciskei, was removed from office.

The brigadier, who seized power in the nominally independent homeland two years ago, said yesterday he would not resign and insisted his troops, who had opened fire on an ANC march killing 28 and wounding 200, had acted with restraint.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, after visiting the site of the killings and laying a wreath of yellow flowers on the tarmac at the border between Ciskei and South Africa, said: "A climate of free political activity throughout the whole country, including

the bantustans, is an important condition for the resumption of talks."

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, was more specific. "How can we now sit down in multilateral negotiations with Gqozo after he has killed so many of our people?" he asked.

At a press conference in King William's Town, Mr Mandela demanded that Brigadier Gqozo be removed and that an interim government, acceptable to all parties, be established immediately. That section of Ciskei law prohibiting free activity of any political organisation should also be repealed and South African military intelligence officials together with staff of a private company, which had been involved in arming and training vigilante forces, should be removed.

"From this day," Mr Mandela said, "Bisho will rank with Boipatong on that roll-call of infamy that recounts the past two years of F.W. de Klerk's incumbency." [Forty-three people in the pro-ANC community of Boipatong were killed in June when Zulus of the Inkatha movement attacked the township.]

Standing in the road where ANC demonstrators had been killed on Monday, Mr Mandela said: "It is a very emotional moment for us to think that those who are fighting for democracy, for peace, for love among South Africans, should be mown down by those who fear democracy."

Mr Mandela arrived at the border surrounded by several hundred jubilant supporters who had spent a chilly night of vigil at the site. They were joined yesterday by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican church in southern Africa. Bishop David Russell of Grahamstown, whose diocese covers the site,

said a prayer in Xhosa calling for God to intervene to end the madness. Archbishop Tutu spoke in a mixture of Xhosa and English, sometimes at the same time, saying that he and his colleagues had come to show solidarity... "not with the ANC, but to show our solidarity with our people in their struggle for justice and peace."

The church leaders then crossed the scrubby bushland separating the marchers from the legislative and administrative offices of the Ciskei government and were invited to meet Brigadier Gqozo. He dismissed their request for him to install an interim government, but they persuaded him to accept some democratic consultation with the inhabitants of Ciskei.

After visiting the site of the killings, Mr Mandela went to the Victoria stadium in the centre of King William's Town where a crowd of several thousand had spent most of the day. He offered condolences and urged discipline; the demonstrators then began to return to their townships.

In London, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, condemned the killing and wounding of ANC supporters, as well as the killing of 10 people at a political gathering in Natal last Friday.

He had led a visit by the troops of EC foreign ministers to South Africa last week to discuss the ending of violence. In Brussels yesterday the Community announced that, as a result of a decision made during that visit, it would send at least 15 political observers to South Africa to help to curb the racial violence.

Barrage of bullets, page 11
Leading article, page 13
The power of one, L&T section, page 5

'Secret ballot' poll helps voters to tell the truth

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

ONE of Britain's biggest opinion polling organisations is to adopt a "secret ballot" to overcome the reluctance of voters to reveal which party they intend to support.

The change by ICM is the first attempt to counter the pollsters' failure accurately to measure public opinion on the eve of the last general election.

ICM says that about 30 per cent of the variation between the polls and the result was attributable to a late swing.

But the biggest problem they have identified was that of people who refused to say how they would vote; ICM subsequently determined that most of these in fact voted Tory. The outcome of the election was described by Bob Worcester, Mori's chairman, as "the worst result for the opinion polls since they were invented."

An average of the final pre-election polls by the five main polling groups - Mori, Gallop, Comres, ICM and NOP - Continued on page 16, col 8



Prayer for the dead: Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, laying a wreath yesterday at the spot where 28 of his supporters were shot dead in Ciskei

TUC greets bosses' man with cheers and a walkout

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN HISTORIC new era of dialogue between employers and workers is in prospect after the director-general of the CBI promised an "open door" to members of the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool.

Despite issuing an uncompromising call for pay restraint, especially in the public sector, Howard Davies signalled a willingness to work with the unions on areas of common concern. However, there would be no return to "corporatism", he said.

Mr Davies' speech was the first to the TUC by an employers' representative since its formation 124 years ago. Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, led a walkout by 40 delegates, but those who remained cheered loudly when Mr Davies called for more

government spending on infrastructure and more pay restraint by company directors.

Focusing on common ground between the TUC and CBI on some European issues, Mr Howard said: "The CBI will take part in the social dialogue. We welcome the opportunity it offers for employers and trade unions to agree on measures which will be of benefit to both sides, rather than waiting for sometimes ill-considered proposals to emerge from the Commission's bureaucracy."

Although he did not hesitate to emphasise differences of view, Mr Davies took an important step towards meeting TUC calls for a "social partnership" with employers on the European model. He said the TUC and CBI held

similar positions on training and the need for the government to stimulate the construction industry. "I am sure there is more business to be done together," he said. "We both want a highly skilled, prosperous workforce which can build a successful, humane and generous society."

The tensest moment came when Mr Davies renewed his call for all public sector pay increases to be financed through productivity gains. To loud jeers, he said: "I know that message will not be welcome to everyone here. But we believe that the public sector should accept private sector disciplines on pay. And Continued on page 16, col 6

TUC sketch, page 6
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Monopolies enquiry will check medical fees 'cartel'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE "cartel" within which hospital consultants decide their own fees for private work is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission amid concern that doctors' earnings from private practice are too high.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, yesterday asked the commission to enquire into the setting of "guideline" fees by the British Medical Association to be charged by consultants. If the guidelines were adhered to by a "significant proportion" of doctors it would "raise the question of how effective fees competition is between consultant doctors."

The BMA said it would co-operate fully with the commission's investigation but claimed that publication of the scale of fees, which are intended as a guideline only, was in the public interest. It was intended to help GPs advise patients of the likely cost of private treatment and to protect patients from overcharging.

"We strongly urge consultants to discuss with their patients the cost of treatment," a spokesman said.

The private insurers also welcomed the investigation. "The level of consultants' fees and the difficulty of influencing them is a continuing concern," said Roy Forman, chief executive of Private Patients Plan.

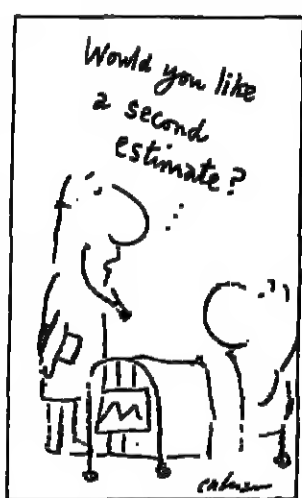
David Cavers, chief executive of Norwich Union Health Care, said: "As far as the customer is concerned the more light that can be shed on the way the fees are established the better." The guidelines were first published by

the BMA in 1989. The latest set, published last week, cover 1,500 procedures from removal of a wisdom tooth (fee £310) to a liver transplant (surgeon's fee £5,825, anaesthetist's fee £2,330). Bupa, the largest health insurer, has its own scale of fees which closely follows the BMA's.

About 12,000 consultants do some private practice earning an average of almost £50,000 on top of maximum part-time NHS salaries ranging from £45,000 to £86,000. Most charge according to the BMA and Bupa scales. A surgeon who performs a couple of major operations in an afternoon can easily supplement his NHS salary by £1,000 a week. But the range of private earnings is wide from a few hundred pounds to more than £100,000.

Private insurers claim that the rate at which consultants earn in the private sector is Continued on page 16, col 3

Private profits, page 2



Germans warned of pay freeze or more tax

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

AS HELMUT Kohl, the embattled chancellor, faced increasing calls for a government of national unity, the German government yesterday threatened new tax increases unless workers in the west agreed to accept a voluntary two- to three-year wage freeze to help with the costs of the reunification.

Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said his planned austerity programme would raise money for investment in the east while bringing down interest rates throughout Europe. At the same time he promised to cut benefits for asylum seekers and to find ways of stemming the flow of refugees entering the country. Resentment about the influx of refugees has led to a wave of violent attacks on foreigners. A new poll shows that support for the extreme right is now over 10 per cent nationwide and is stronger in the west than in the east.

Herr Kohl told a meeting of his ruling Christian Democrats that there was "not the slightest reason" for "disgraceful rumours" suggesting that Wolfgang Schäuble, the CDU parliamentary leader, had been plotting to challenge the chancellor and create a grand coalition with the Social Democrats.

Austere budget, page 10

BBC rotters give 'stoutist' Bunter the bumps

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BILLY Bunter has been bumped again, but this time the rotters responsible are the BBC, who believe that today's politically correct children would be offended by the old comic strip's "stoutism and racism". A script for an animated television series about Greyfriars School's Fat Owl of the Remove was thought to be "dated" by its public school caricatures and racial stereotypes.

"Children are far quicker than adults at spotting and rejecting cases of racism and stoutism," Michael Shields, BBC Enterprises' head of business development for children's programmes, said. "Our editorial colleagues thought it would be dated."

Frank Hawkey, a publisher who approached the BBC with the script idea, rejected such fears as an absurd excuse. "They told me it would encourage

people to become fat like Billy Bunter and suggested the only way it might succeed is to make it contemporary, like *Grange Hill*."

Enid Blyton's Toyland characters will appear soon in a new BBC animation series, but only after being sanitised for more politically correct consumption. Golliwogs have been replaced by gremlins or monkeys, the people are no longer "gay" and Noddy is no longer allowed to feel "queer".

It is unlikely that the Greyfriars boys' attitude to their Indian schoolmate Hurree Janset Ram Singh, whom they called Inky, would find favour with the Commission for Racial Equality. But the BBC does not believe that even a politically corrected version of the Bunter comics - a childhood favourite of John Major - would be acceptable.

Mr Hawkey, who proposed featuring the voices of John Cleese as Mr Quelch the schoolmaster and Michael Palin as

Harry Wharton, has not given up hope that another broadcaster might give Bunter a new lease on life. He has commissioned a writer to update the comic, with some episodes to feature Japanese sumo wrestlers.

Bunter, created by Charles St John Hamilton under the pen name of Frank Richards, appeared in a television series 40 years ago, but it was not a favourite with the critics. One said: "All the favour that we remember of the old *Magnet* stories, full of japes and jam tarts, noisy ragging and famous phrases, was missing. In its place was a schoolboy comedy, which amounted to little more than slapstick."

Last night the BBC said: "This is one of hundreds of ideas offered to BBC Children's Television. At the time it was offered, it was felt that there was not a place for Billy Bunter in the schedule."

BBC cuts, page 16

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NHS surgeons paid £1,150 for an afternoon's private work

By JEREMY LAURANCE
AND ALISON ROBERTS

A CONSULTANT orthopaedic surgeon who takes a Friday afternoon off to do a couple of private hip replacements and charges the British Medical Association "guideline" fee of £775 would supplement his NHS salary of £50,000-plus by £1,550 a week.

Most of the 12,000 consultants who do some private practice — two thirds of the total — charge at these rates or the marginally lower rates paid by BUPA. Only the top names in the profession charge more.

The vast majority hold NHS posts and do the private work in their spare time. Only a handful work exclusively in

the private sector. Until the scale was first published in 1989, many consultants relied on rule of thumb to calculate their fees. One said that he had a friend who was a management consultant who charged — in the mid-1980s — £150 an hour and he tried to charge the same.

BUPA, the largest health insurance company, publishes a scale of fees it will pay consultants for different types of operations. Subscribers who want treatment by a consultant who charges more are required to pay the difference out of their own pocket.

Private Patients Plan, the second largest insurer, has a secret scale of fees. If a consultant exceeds the limit, his bill is queried. As soon as you publish scales they be-

BMA FEES

	£
Liver transplant	5,625
Hip replacement	775
Removal of thrombus from vein	600
Caesarean section delivery	580
Hernia operation	320
Removal of haemorrhoids	225
Stripping of varicose vein	285
Examination of joint under anaesthetic	90

come targets," said Roy Forman, chief executive. He would not disclose how the scale was established but said it did not involve comparison with other professions or doctors' earnings in other countries.

Private insurers are divided

over whether the fees paid to consultants are excessive. David Cavers, chief executive of Norwich Union Health Care, said that a surgeon doing private work could earn £50,000 on average, the same as his NHS salary, but in only one sixth of the time. That was equivalent to £300,000 a year. "That is vastly in excess of what we would have to pay in any other market place," he said.

But Mr Forman said that many consultants did not earn large sums from private practice until a very late stage in their careers. "It takes a doctor a pretty long time to get to that level and you have to take that into account."

If the fees were cut there could be "a drying up of the supply" of consultants pre-

pared to do the work. But he did not say where they would go. Many smaller insurers quote the BMA fee scale as the figure they will pay.

"I consider that an inadvisable course," said Mr Forman, who is chairman of the Private Medical Insurance Committee of the Association of British Insurers. "It makes the insurer dependent on what the specialists, via the BMA, themselves decide should be paid."

The association has published its scale of fees since 1989 in response to demands from members. "Doctors wanted some sort of market to help them explain the costs to patients," a spokesman said.

"A lot of patients think some of these things are enormously expensive and doctors needed

something to point to." The association drew up the scale with help from the private health insurance companies after studying similar scales in America and Australia, the spokesman added.

The work involved in different surgical procedures was assessed and ranked according to criteria such as the skill required and the length and complexity of the operation. However, the pricing of the procedures was done by the association alone, without assistance from the insurance companies.

Mr Forman said: "You have a relation between the procedures which is rationally based but the pricing is commercially based."

Cartel enquiry, page 1

Secure hospitals to face wide review

Closure of Britain's top-security mental hospitals will come a step nearer next week with the announcement of a review of their future. Jeremy Laurance, Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, has bowed to pressure for the review after an enquiry found that a brutal regime had operated at Ashworth hospital on Merseyside. She had planned a more limited review, of the running of the hospitals. The future of Broadmoor, Rampton and Ashworth special hospitals will now be considered by a working group of about 20 managers and specialists chaired by Dr John Reed, a medical officer at the health department. Officials accept that radical pruning of the hospitals may be needed but are understood still to oppose wholesale closure. Establishment of the working group was announced by Mrs Bottomley last month: she said it would consider "the culture" of the hospitals, not closure. One option is to close old parts of Broadmoor and Ashworth, keep the new and put more patients in regional secure units. The Special Hospitals Service Authority could then relinquish responsibility for running the hospitals and be a purchasing authority, buying secure care from the NHS.

Break-in at Pavilion

Chinese vases and other objects worth up to £150,000 have been damaged in a break-in at Brighton Pavilion (Simon Tait writes). Ann Kenney, keeper of public services, said: "It was a shocking attack. We are laboriously piecing the objects together again to assess exactly what the damage is, but a preliminary estimate of the value is £100,000 to £150,000." The building's electronic security system detected an intruder as he broke through a window into the main saloon on Monday night and a man was arrested almost immediately. Brighton Pavilion was designed by John Nash and built between 1815 and 1822 as the holiday palace of the Prince Regent, later George IV. In 1975 a student set fire to the music room and repairs cost £250,000. A man will appear before Brighton magistrates this morning charged with criminal damage.

Dumping defended

British military vessels will continue to dump ammunition at sea in spite of claims by the environmental group Greenpeace that they are flouting international law (Nicholas Watt writes). A defence ministry spokeswoman said Britain was not breaking international law by failing to tell the London Dumping Convention that it was disposing of ammunition in the Atlantic. She said: "The convention does not apply to us." British military vessels had crown immunity which exempted them. The ministry is expected to dump 8,405 tons of ammunition in the sea this year compared with 7,656 tons in the four years up to 1992. The high figure results from the phasing-out of some systems.

Poll tax warning

Abolishing county councils in England to create a single tier of all-purpose district authorities would add £36 a head to the poll tax, according to figures published yesterday (Douglas Broom writes). A study by accountants Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, commissioned by the Association of County Councils, found that abolishing the counties as many advocate would increase the cost of local government by £80 million a year.

□ Bureaucratic incompetence over the poll tax and the failure of councils to control unruly tenants led to a one-third increase in complaints to local government ombudsmen in the year to April.

Finance chief quits

The chairman of the finance committee of Sheffield council, which faces a £40 million shortfall next year, resigned yesterday. Howard Knight denied that his resignation was connected with the city's mounting cash problems. The council is still trying to balance this year's budget, and next month will receive a final report into its £10.4 million loss on the World Student Games. Mr Knight said that he had resigned for personal reasons, brought about by pressure of work on his family and social life. "I don't think I am throwing in the towel at a difficult time." Opposition councillors claimed that his resignation came as Labour leaders fell out about how to handle the cash crisis.

Escort relaunched



The Ford Escort, Britain's best-selling car, is relaunched today, only two years after a new model cost £1 billion to develop was put on the market (Kevin Eason writes). The latest version, above, has a new front grille and ten structural changes to improve safety. Ford has refused to disclose the cost of the revamp, but it is believed that, with the retooling of the Halewood plant on Merseyside, it would have cost at least £100 million. The redesign came after criticism that the Escort was not as advanced as many of its competitors. The Escort and Orion ranges are vital to Ford's supremacy in the United Kingdom market, where it accounts for almost a quarter of all car sales.

County Hall concern

The Japanese company that wants to convert County Hall, the former home of the Greater London Council, into a hotel should provide financial guarantees before the project goes ahead, the Labour party said yesterday. Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said that without firm assurances about the company's ability to fund the estimated £120 million conversion costs there was a risk that the building would be left an empty shell. In a letter to Michael Howard, the environment secretary, Mr Straw said the property market in Tokyo was in a worse state than London's. A spokesman for Shitayama said Mr Straw had "gone too far" in questioning the company's viability.

Rolls-Royce contract, page 19

Schools chief vows to defend standards

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STEWART Sutherland, the new chief inspector of schools, yesterday launched the revamped and renamed inspections service, the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), and promised parents that classroom and examination standards would be rigorously defended by the new watchdog.

From next year, independent teams led by registered inspectors and including lay members will bid for inspection contracts expected to be worth £5,000 to £50,000. Professor Sutherland, who is also vice-chancellor of London University, said that more than 4,000 people had applied for posts as inspectors since July.

"My office is now heavily

engaged in the assessment of this avalanche of applications and nearly 1,000 have already passed the first scrutiny and will be invited to take up a place on the Ofsted training scheme." The first series of training seminars will begin on Monday, with an eventual target of between 200 and 1,000 accredited inspectors.

According to statistics released yesterday, the typical applicant is white, male, aged 40 to 49 and lives in the South East. Most of the 600 applications for lay posts are from managers, directors and other professionals, with a handful sent in by secretaries, policemen and soldiers.

Traditionalist critics have argued that the new inspectorate will differ only cosmetically

from its predecessor, the 150-year-old Her Majesty's Inspectorate, citing the rejection of applications from traditionalist teachers who have openly opposed progressive educational orthodoxy.

However, Professor Sutherland said that Ofsted would work within a much tougher framework of criteria, assessing schools once every four years with reference to published indicators such as results in national curriculum tests and public examinations and truancy rates, which would eventually be compared with international figures. The office's reports, to be published only at local level, would be "written in jargon-free language".

John Patten, the education secretary, said Ofsted would "provide all schools with an incentive for improvement". The inspectorate will be under intense pressure to prevent a repetition of the present failure over GCSE standards, and to police standards in schools judged to be "at risk".

Ann Taylor, Labour education spokeswoman, said that the new system offered no guarantee of consistency. "Inspectors will be sent into schools with little training, and the only team leaders will have any direct contact with Ofsted. This is a recipe for an uneven and sub-standard national system of maintaining standards in our schools."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, said that the folly of the reforms would soon become clear. "To do a credible first-class job the new body has got to be strengthened in terms of resources and numbers. In its present structure and size it will struggle."

□ The ruling Labour group on Birmingham City Council has denied suppressing a report on the city's schools that suggested that a determined effort was needed to lift educational standards. In spite of recent improvements in examination results.

The report, by Sir Peter Newsam, director of the Institute of Education at London University, and dated February, was published by the authority on the eve of an education policy meeting of the city council due to be held last night at the request of the Tory opposition. The Labour group said the report's publication had been delayed to allow Sir Peter to indicate which sources he had used.



Desert rescue: Sergeant Dennis Rogers reflecting on his award for gallantry

Two honoured for Kuwait rescue

By PETER VICTOR

AN RAF bomb sergeant who crawled across a minefield to rescue two injured Kuwaiti boys has been awarded the George Medal.

Sergeant Dennis Rogers, 37, who was serving with the UK Explosive Ordnance Disposal Cell in Kuwait after the Gulf war but had no experience of breaching minefields, twice risked crossing scores of anti-personnel mines to rescue the boys aged ten and thirteen.

Corporal Christopher Winter, 26, the sergeant's army assistant, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation

for Brave Conduct for his part in the rescue. The two were called by local police to an Iraqi-laid minefield in Kuwait on June 20 last year. They found the two boys lying in the middle of scores of anti-personnel mines on a beach. Each had lost a leg and suffered multiple cuts but they were conscious.

Sergeant Rogers, now based at RAF Stafford, fastened a secure line to Corporal Winter and entered the minefield. He crawled towards the first boy and carried him to safety. Despite suffering dehydration in temperatures above 35C, he returned to collect the other

boy. He had to pass through more mines to reach him as he was further along the beach. Sergeant Rogers then retraced his steps and delivered the boy to a military medical team. The team that treated the boys said the rescue was completed just in time to save their lives.

Throughout the rescue Corporal Winter, who has since left the army and lives in Norfolk, stood at the edge of the minefield and remained attached by a line to Sergeant Rogers. He helped to guide his comrade through the operation, giving advice and encouragement.

RAF officer's rescue hang-glider stays grounded

A TINY modified hang-glider that could be used to rescue RAF Tornado crews shot down in Iraq is on display at the Farnborough Air Show — and being studiously ignored by the defence ministry.

The collapsible aircraft was designed by an RAF Regiment officer and could have been used to save the crews that crashed behind enemy lines in the Gulf war. Despite pleas from senior RAF officers for the device to be rushed into service to provide protection for crews now in the Gulf, the idea is still working its way through the ministry.

The Covert Insertion and Recovery Vehicle (CIRV) was

A flight lieutenant is failing to win support for a device that fellow officers believe could be a life-saver, Harvey Elliott writes

devised by Flt Lt Philip Parsons, based at North Luffenham. "I had always been fascinated by the way birds managed to fly so efficiently with flexible wings," he said at the show yesterday. "It was when we finally began to understand some of the principles and made hang-gliders really safe as a result that I realised the potential military value."

Using his own money, Flt Lt Parsons worked in his spare

time on the CIRV, which costs about £10,000, and set up a loan aircraft to sell the fold-away equipment. He is forbidden to comment on any discussions he may have had with the ministry, but other officers confirm that the concept could be invaluable in saving lives.

Two CIRVs can be carried in a Tornado drop fuel tank with enough equipment to enable the two pilots of a

downed aircraft to fly themselves safely beyond enemy reach. Once a downed crew has been located through rescue beacons that they carry, the CIRV could be taken from store and fitted to another Tornado or put on board a Hercules transport plane and flown to the crash site. They would then be dropped by parachute ready for instant use.

Weighing only 60 kilograms, the escape plane has a 10.4-metre flexible wing and is powered by an adapted two-stroke go-kart petrol engine that can propel it at up to 50mph. The pilot runs a few yards before lifting his legs into a "sleeping bag" under

the wing, and, as he zips it up, the undercarriage is automatically retracted.

The CIRV has miniature instruments and satellite navigation equipment. Depending on wind conditions, it can fly for up to four hours without refuelling — sufficient to travel from Baghdad to Saudi Arabia. It could also be used by commando troops, released from a submarine or used to spot drug traffickers.

The CIRV is on static display only at Farnborough because Flt Lt Parsons cannot afford the £1,000 insurance to fly in public.

CORRECTION

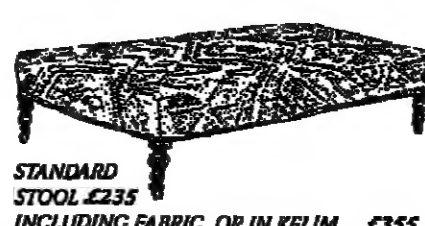
Richard Noble is not a member of the Bluebird 9 team as stated in *The Times* on September 7.



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and a reading of a relevant passage from Joyce's *Portrait*

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Police arrest 27 and seize forged notes and explosive

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

DETECTIVES arrested 27 men and women in a series of dawn raids yesterday and seized more than 40 weapons, two kilograms of plastic explosive and fake £50 notes with a face value of £1.5 million.

Scotland Yard officers revealed details of a nine month undercover investigation, operation Mensa, following the raids on 30 addresses in London, the Home Counties and the West Country by officers from three regional crime squads.

They seized plates for the £50 notes and counterfeit \$100 bills, plus counterfeit American currency with a face value of \$250,000 (£125,000).

Plates for counterfeiting Danish kroner notes and Barclays Bank travellers' cheques were also found, with a large number of forged birth certificates and Ministry of Transport test certificates, driving licences, vehicle log books and parking permits for disabled drivers.

The criminals had been using passports, vehicle test certificates and building society cheques that had been stolen.

One raid on farm buildings near Bridport, Dorset, uncovered the 40 guns which included two Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunition, tripwires and flares.

Commander Roy Penrose, regional crime squad co-ordinator for London, said the investigation had aimed at a loosely organised group of criminals who were based in north and east London. They were suspected of supplying weapons, explosives and wholesale counterfeit currency.

Police are understood to have infiltrated a detective posing as a criminal buyer into the network after they were told about the possible sale of explosive, which may have been smuggled back to Britain after the Gulf war.

Mr Penrose said £3,000 had been quoted for two tons

of the PE4 explosive, which is made in Britain, although police doubted whether the criminals could in fact deliver such a large amount. The explosives would have been sold to "anyone prepared to pay the price", he said.

The raids also uncovered gunpowder and guns including shotguns, handguns and a German sub-machine-gun dating back to the last war.

The weapons were for supply to other criminals or might be used by the network itself. Mr Penrose said the suspects were not thought to be a single gang with a core leadership, but rather individuals who might come together to make money. The network's motto had been: "If you want it, we can get it."

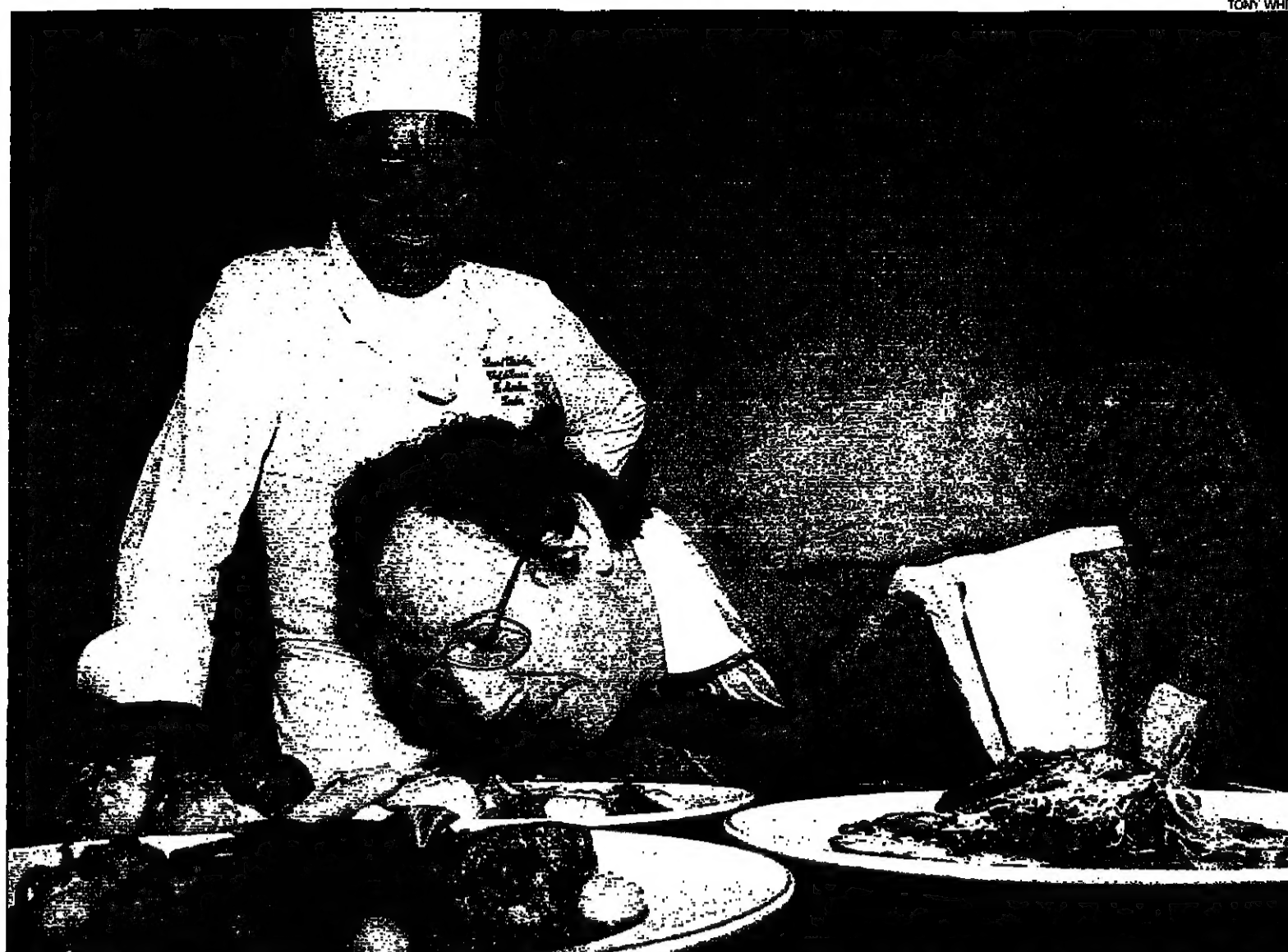
He said the quality of the £50 notes was excellent and some were thought to have gone into circulation after being sold to criminal distributors for £20 each. The forgers are believed to have copied both the present £50 note and its predecessor.

The investigation began last December and culminated in yesterday's raids when 150 officers descended on homes, shops and garages in north and east London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, the Thames Valley area, Dorset and Devon.

Mr Penrose said the investigation, which included work with the new national criminal intelligence service, had been directed at criminals who had not previously been regarded as the very top of the London criminal tree.

The police had been investigating "lifestyle criminals" with no visible means of support, he said. "They were earning vast amounts of money and came together to fund their lifestyle. They were loosely organised," he said.

Infiltration by undercover officers posing as criminals has been developed rapidly in recent years by Scotland Yard and other forces.



Sniffing for truffles: a delegate at a fungus conference in Kew Gardens, southwest London, moving in for a closer inspection of the exotic creations of David Chambers, left, executive chef at Le Meridien Hotel in Piccadilly. Mr Chambers made three fungus dishes for the conference yesterday: a salad of foie gras with cepes, wild mushrooms, and a diamante of sole with trompettes de mort

10 arrests as customs seize drugs worth £6m

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

CUSTOMS officers yesterday arrested ten people after seizing 40 kilos of cocaine worth £6 million brought into Britain from Holland hidden in a trailer used by a well-known Kent motor racing team.

The cocaine was found on the trailer carrying an expensive racing saloon, which was being brought back through the Olau Line ferry terminal at Sheerness last week from Flushing, Holland. The drugs were placed in gas cylinders for the hydraulic system used to operate a lifting ramp for the cars. Customs removed the drugs and put in fake cocaine.

After the switch the car was allowed to go on its way watched by customs officers from two units specialising in drug investigations in an operation codenamed Bouncer. A spokesman for customs said: "What we have done here is to stop a major cocaine importation and a major cocaine gang. We don't pretend this was a one-off journey. It will be difficult to tell how many journeys they might have done until we get to the bottom of things."

The spokesman would not reveal the identity of the racing team but said that it was well-known within the sport. At least one of those arrested is understood to be part of racing team.

In recent years customs officers have been keeping a watch on much of the ferry traffic from Holland, which is regarded as the drug distribution centre for European markets and the key to the supply of cannabis, heroin and amphetamines.

Woman gave \$½ m to 'please' gambler

A wealthy businesswoman claims her partner tricked her out of money to finance his debts. Michael Horsnell reports

AN AMERICAN businesswoman told a jury yesterday that she handed her lover \$500,000 to "please him" without realising he was a professional gambler who was after her fortune.

Nicole Dubois, 37, said she gave the money to Yona Beitou, 39, believing he would invest it. She said she fell in love with Mr Beitou, an Israeli, after they had met on a flight from Paris to London.

However Mr Beitou, who told her he was a commodity trader who managed a \$500 million investment fund for the Saudis, needed her money to finance a \$2.8 million losing streak in roulette. Southwark Crown Court was told. Shortly before she gave in to Mr Beitou's ideas to invest her money she called off a meeting in London when she

realised he might have been interested only in her wealth.

Miss Dubois, who lives in Boston, sent Mr Beitou a fax just before they were due to meet. It read: "If you want to see me without my basket of gold and only for my beautiful eyes then I can manage to see you." She told the court: "I told him I didn't want to make love and money. I felt a lot of pressure, I wanted to have a trusting relationship and talk of money was polluting it."

Just before Christmas last year she said she gave Mr Beitou \$26,000 in cash out of weakness and believed he

would buy shares with it. She added: "I wanted to please him. I believed him absolutely." On Christmas day Mr Beitou persuaded her to part with half her savings. He allegedly told her: "I love you very much but you don't seem to trust me."

Miss Dubois said she replied: "If you promise me it's going to be safe investments then all right I'll do it — half of what I have — \$500,000."

Miss Dubois said that soon after they met Mr Beitou had asked her to transfer her \$1 million savings to his account but she refused. She said: "If

he'd had an accident I would lose everything. I felt bad that I had refused. He was probably much better than me at managing my stock so I gave him power to move my investments." She added a clause that said he could not turn her stocks into cash but relented and gave him \$500,000 cash.

Miss Dubois said that throughout their relationship Mr Beitou did not gamble, even when they dined at a casino. The court was told that Mr Beitou, who lives at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, regularly gambled six-figure sums at the world's top clubs including The Ritz and Maxim's. Mr Beitou denies three charges of obtaining property by deception and three of theft between December 1990 and February last year. The trial continues.



Money to burn: evidence seized yesterday

JP who gave bail to rapist resigns

A MAGISTRATE who freed on bail a rapist who then murdered a 23-year-old council worker has resigned.

Ray Morgan, a retired university lecturer, denied that the controversy over the case had led to his resignation, but the move was welcomed by Jim and Kay Potts, of Churcham, near Gloucester, the parents of Anna McGurk, the victim.

Within weeks of being granted bail on a rape charge by Mr Morgan's court last year, Andrew Hagans, 25, ambushed Mrs McGurk with a knife in Gloucester and later raped and killed her.

After Hagans was jailed for life at Bristol Crown Court two months ago for the crimes, there were demands for the resignation of Mr Morgan and his colleagues.

PC in double death crash denies charge

By Ronald Faux

A POLICE officer who drove a patrol car at more than 120mph in pursuit of a motorcyclist that crashed, killing the two riders, was accused of reckless driving at York Crown Court yesterday.

Michael Kalisher, QC, told the jury that although the Crown did not seek to put moral or legal blame for the tragedy on PC Charles Wheeler, 41, of Sprotborough, near Doncaster, police drivers were under the same obligation as any other motorist to drive safely and carefully and within the law.

Mr Wheeler denied driving recklessly during the chase which began in Doncaster when the motorcyclist, stolen two hours earlier in Scunthorpe, drove through red traffic lights. The pursuit lasted 6.5 miles at an average speed of 114mph. It ended when the motorcyclist crashed, killing the driver, Richard Nilsson, 22, and his pillion passenger Stephen Parrott, 25, both of Scunthorpe.

The trial continues today.

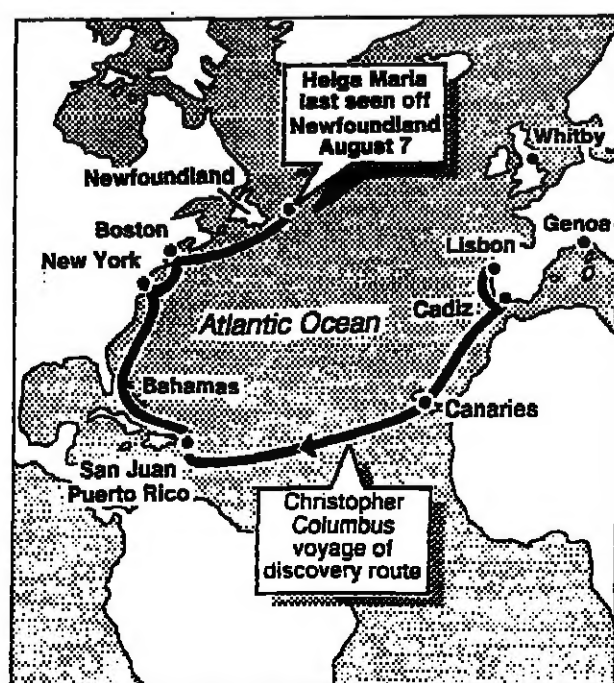
Adventurers' boat missing

By Julia Llewellyn Smith

Whitby. After the crew failed to respond to radio appeals broadcast every four hours, the search was stepped up.

Roger Clarke, of Clyde coastguards, said: "It is not unusual for a sailing boat like this to take this long to cross

the Atlantic, but we are concerned. It would be naive to think that, with these broadcasts going out for a week, not one had reached the *Helga Maria*, but possibly they are not listening for whatever reason."



ALL aircraft and ships in the north Atlantic have been alerted to search for six people whose boat has been missing for more than a month.

Jack Lammiman, 53, and his crew of five on the 60ft converted fishing vessel *Helga Maria* were last seen off Newfoundland on August 7. They were on the last leg of an 8,000-mile journey that began in May, tracing Columbus's voyage to America. The 62-year-old boat was heading for the Shetland Islands and was due to return to its home port of Whitby, North Yorkshire, on August 31.

Last year, Mr Lammiman, of Whitby, defied an order from the transport department confining his vessel to port and sailed to the Arctic circle with a crew of two elderly women and a vicar. He was fined £1,000 on his return. His crew this time is David Gray, a former policeman from Edinburgh, Huw Roberts, an ex-naval diver, Rosie Tedlow, a nurse, Guy Reed, an environmentalist, and an unnamed Canadian.

Coastguards on Clydeside were alerted by relatives when the boat did not return to

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SATURDAY'S TIMES

Sex or a sin?



They used to call it pornography, but her new CD 'Sex' is intended to be consumed as art... Bryan Appleby muses on Madonna and erotica

Big game



Has the trade department's tiger got a future? Sally Brampton sets off to trap Michael Heseltine in his lair

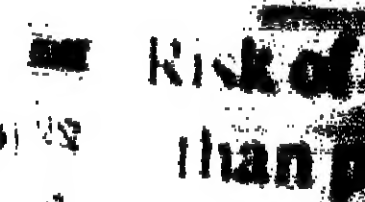
Quite contrary



"What I did then, you couldn't let a girl do now..." Mary Whitehouse talks about her childhood

SATURDAY'S TIMES: TREAT YOURSELF

Lawyers in divide in jail terms



Poison b

The world's favourite airline.

Lawyers uncover big divide in nations' jail terms for rape

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BIG disparities in sentencing of criminals between different countries, even within Europe, are revealed in a survey to be published at the biennial conference of the International Bar Association in Cannes later this month.

The survey team put a series of hypothetical cases to legal authorities in more than 20 countries and found penalties in Europe varied by more than ten years for crimes such as rape and by more than 40 years when countries from different continents are compared.

The hypothetical rape case featured a 27-year-old man who attacked a girl standing alone at a bus stop, dragged her to a derelict car park, punched her and threatened her with a knife before raping her.

The victim was aged 16 and the man had a history of minor sexual offences and had been in jail for up to three months.

Denmark gave a likely sentence of two to three years and Canada, where the crime would be called sexual assault with a weapon, and Norway, three to five years, compared

with 15 years in Ireland (for a not guilty plea), 20 years in Spain and 50 years in Texas. England comes in the middle of the range with a sentence of eight to 12 years.

In another question, a 19-year-old man had been found guilty of raiding a bank with four other people, masked and armed with a machinegun which was used to threaten cashiers and customers.

He was unemployed, the youngest member of the gang, and the £800,000 had been recovered. The defendant had several convictions for petty theft and breach of the peace.

Canada suggested a likely sentence of three to five years. Norway two to three years and Denmark six years. Spain said four years, two months and a day, and Ireland five to six years for a not guilty plea. England said ten to 14 years, or five years in a young offenders' institution, and Texas ten years.

In a case of burglary of a steady home, goods worth £90,000 were taken and later recovered from a man with a substantial record of theft. Canada said it would impose a jail sentence of five to seven

years, Kenya three years plus hard labour and six strokes of the cane, Denmark one to two years and the Cook Islands probation of three months. Texas suggested ten years' jail and England suggested from three to seven years.

Likely sentences for a domestic assault case, where the husband broke his wife's nose and there was a long history of disputes and previous charges of assault or breach of the peace, ranged from between six and 18 months in Canada to 30 or 40 days, possibly suspended, in Denmark.

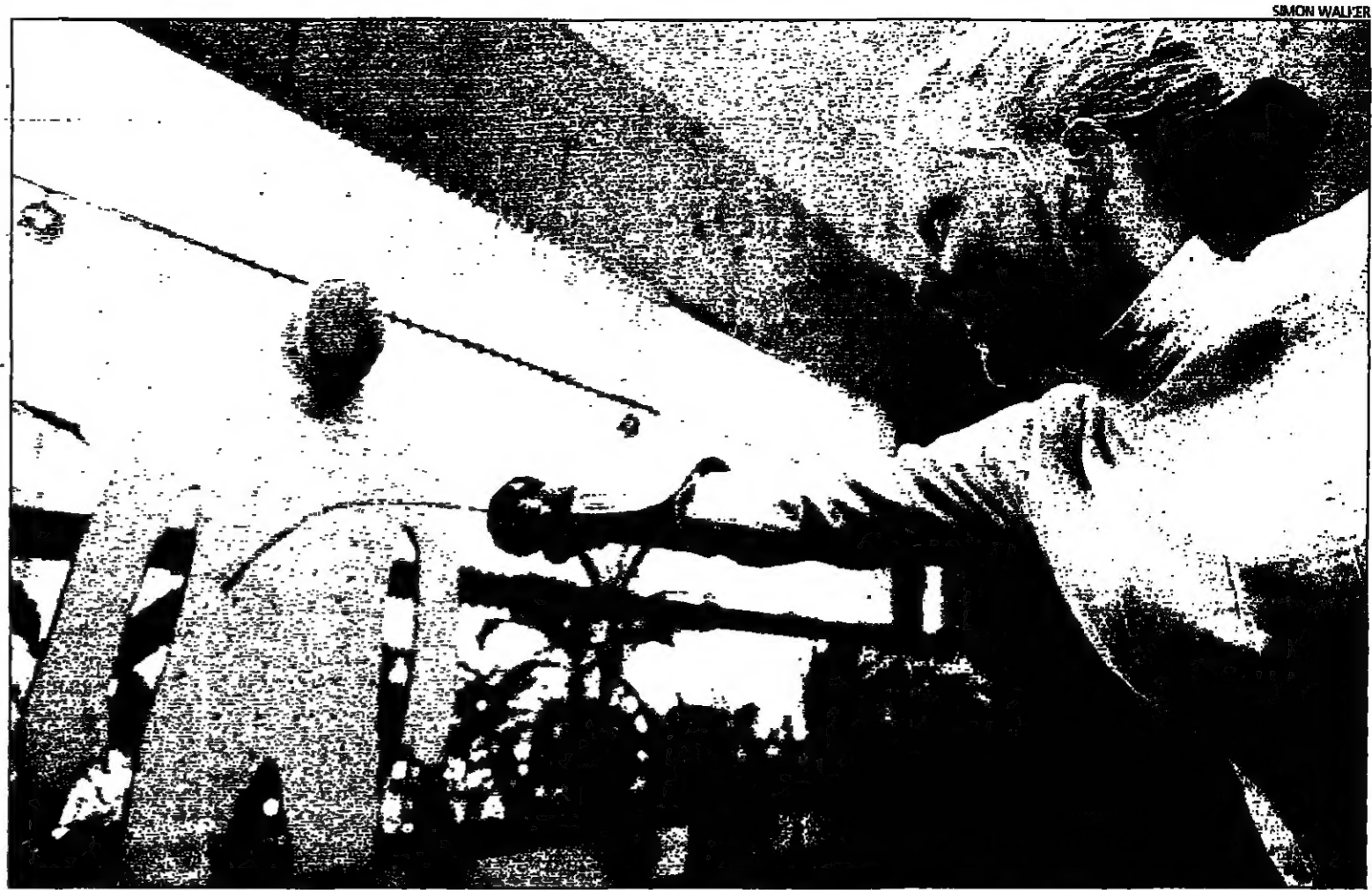
Six months' imprisonment was likely in Kenya, a bond of good behaviour in India, a fine in Scotland and ten days' jail in Texas. The likely sentence in England was six months, suspended for two years.

Peter Michael Muller, an attorney in Munich and chairman of the association's criminal law committee which conducted the survey, said the findings would help practitioners in trans-national criminal law and could lead to sentencing reforms.

The survey shows that we really do have huge gaps, a lot of disparities in sentencing between different countries. The important thing is first to gather the facts and ascertain the different policies and then to try to understand why the disparities exist and the national and ethical backgrounds to them," he said.

The aim was to try to secure greater homogeneity of sentencing, bearing in mind that cultural differences would remain. "You can't try an aborigine like a Bavarian farmer," said Herr Muller.

The first parts of the survey were originally published in 1990 but the exercise has now been extended to include a greater range of questions and is being widened further, with answers on drink-driving offences now being processed.



On target: Katherine Brown, 17, demonstrating her electronic fencing partner in London yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes). The invention, designed to help fencers' speed and aim, won Miss Brown, from Tiffin Girls School, Kingston-upon-Thames, southwest London, a place in the schools finals of the Toshiba Year of Invention competition as the London and Home Counties regional winner. The Electronic Point Efficiency Exerciser or Epée, dubbed the "fence-

Inventor wins by the sword

ing dartboard", indicates an area of the body which the fencer must hit. If the fencer's electronic sword hits the spot within a pre-set time, buzzers sound and lights flash, indicating a successful lunge.

Miss Brown, of Raynes Park, southwest London, the first woman to reach this stage of the awards, said

that she had chosen a male shape for marketing reasons. "Men are generally reluctant to hit a woman."

Twenty-two other regional finalists were named and their inventions unveiled at a ceremony at Centre Point, the Confederation of British Industry's headquarters. Peter Clifton, a businessman from Halesworth,

Suffolk, the Central/Midlands regional finalist in the business category, has developed a rotary compressor that turns straw, sawdust and chaff into bin bags.

Gareth Jones of Bath, Avon, created a folding cycle trailer, able to carry 40kg loads. Philip Fuller, an engineer from Epping, Essex, invented a power chisel, and a team from Oxford University developed a bone substitute material made of collagen and calcium phosphate.

SENTENCE DISPARITIES			
	Rape	Likely sentence for... Theft by housebreaking	Armed robbery
Canada	rape abolished, sexual assault with a weapon 3-5 yrs	5-7 yrs	3-5 yrs
Cook Islands	3-5 yrs	Probation 3 mths	Probation 3 mths
Denmark	2-5 yrs	1-2 yrs	6 yrs
England	8-12 yrs	3-7 yrs	10-14 yrs/5 yrs Young Offenders' Institute
India	7-10 yrs	7 yrs	7 yrs
Ireland	10 yrs guilty plea, 15 yrs not guilty	4 yrs guilty plea, 5-6 yrs not guilty	3-4 yrs (guilty plea) 5-6 yrs (not guilty)
Japan	2-5 yrs	3-5 yrs	5 yrs
Kenya	6 yrs hard labour, 6 strokes cane	5 yrs, hard labour obligatory, 6 strokes cane	3 yrs and 6 strokes
Norway	3-5 yrs	120 days-6 mths	2-3 yrs
Spain	20 yrs	4 yrs, 2 mths, 1 day	4 yrs, 2mths, 1 day
USA (Texas)	50 yrs	10 yrs	10 yrs

* sentencing option 8-10 yrs

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riot estate juror dismissed

A juror was dismissed yesterday after barristers in the Meadow Well disorder trial complained that she was not paying attention.

Judge Johnson halted proceedings on the sixth day at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court and asked Jane McKenna to leave. He said the remaining jurors that she had been seen filling in forms, putting vouchers into envelopes, studying her cheque book and flipping through a red diary. "The last thing I want is for the trial to conclude with either side thinking it had not been a fair trial because a juror had not been attending properly," the judge said.

Twelve defendants deny charges of violent disorder on September 9 and 10 last year, when a mob of 400 caused £1.5 million of damage.

Bus crushed

Nine children aged between five and eleven were injured when a double-decker bus taking them to Portway school, Charlton, Hampshire, was crushed under a bridge on the first day of term.

Trees saved

A tree preservation order has been put on 324-acre Brampton wood by Huntingdonshire planners. Ecology groups had appealed to John Major to intervene after the defence ministry decided to sell it.

Safety move

Ice cream vans will be limited to 5mph in Derby parks after the death of James Howard, aged five. The city council rejected a plea from his mother for a traffic ban.

Death in cell

Robert Powell, 47, was found hanged in his prison hospital cell at Elmley on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, while awaiting trial for the murder of Muriel Stinton, a widow aged 86.

Dog gone

A burglar who abandoned his rottweiler in a car after being disturbed has broken into the police pound at Winchester, Hampshire, and freed it. Sergeant Tanya Cook said: "It has to be the owner. No one could get near the thing."

Risk of crime lower than public fears

TWO thirds of the people in an inner-city area feared that they would be burgled although only 13 per cent had a break-in during the previous year, according to a survey published yesterday.

The study, conducted in part of Leicester, also found that almost 30 per cent of women thought that they were likely to be raped or sexually assaulted although only 1.1 per cent had been assaulted in the previous year. More than 25 per cent of people considered their district to be unsafe.

The report appears to confirm that the public's perception of crime and fear of crime have little relation to its incidence. However, the fear is enough to restrict people's behaviour by causing them not to go out at night or to avoid certain areas.

Andrew Willis, senior lecturer in criminology at Leicester University, said: "The fear of crime is quite extensive and people are clearly anxious about being the victims of criminal acts. This study shows that it is a very real fear for a lot of people, particularly among the elderly, women and single parents. If you are living in a terrace house and premises a few doors away are burgled, it is

inevitable that people believe it is only a matter of time before their home is burgled."

The report was carried out for Leicester City Council in the western part of the city. It was undertaken in an area with a population of 14,000, of which more than one fifth is aged 60 or more, about one quarter is from the ethnic minority community and the unemployment rate is almost 14 per cent. The burglary rate among the Asian community was one in five, almost double that for the whole sample.

Half of those questioned thought that police walking the beat regularly would help to prevent crime. Thirty-six per cent wanted better street lighting and 26 per cent urged action to deal with empty and derelict property.

The survey also found strong support for measures to provide opportunities for jobless young people to divert them from crime. Fifty per cent wanted training opportunities for youngsters, and 37 per cent said that tackling unemployment was the highest priority.

Crime Prevention in the Leicester City Challenge area. (University of Leicester school of social work)

UNEMPLOYED managers and executives are taking twice as long to find a new job as they were 18 months ago, according to employment consultants. They say that there are still no signs of companies taking on more staff.

Discrimination against job-hunters over 40 remains. A government advisory group, due to have its first meeting by the end of the year, is expected to draw up an initiative aimed at persuading more employers to take on older unemployed people. The 12 members of the committee are expected to be named in October.

According to the employment department, the group is expected to examine the problems faced by executives, middle managers and blue-collar workers, particularly the increase in age discrimination. Although it will have only advisory powers, ministers expect employers to pay attention to what it has to say and to follow its directions.

Michael Forsyth, employment minister, has backed the group publicly and has urged employers to take a more enlightened approach. He has described ageism as "a stupid policy", saying that it was absurd, wasteful and a sign of shortsightedness. He has pledged to improve matters and has criticised the European Commission for setting an age limit of 35 on most jobs from messengers to lawyers.

Last year's Labour Force Survey showed that, once older people lose their jobs, they remain unemployed for much longer than younger people. Statistics on long-term unemployment show that 43 per cent of unemployed people aged from 16 to 29 stay out of work for a year or more, compared with 60 per cent of those aged over 50.

Even among those in work,

Jobless executives suffer from age prejudice

IN the first of a series on unemployment among the professions, Ray Clancy looks at firms' unwillingness to take on the over-40s

There is a trend towards part-time and short-term employment, says Derek Edwards, managing director of Sanders and Sidney, an outplacement consultancy that advises businesses on dealing with redundancy. The effects of unemployment are also being felt at blue-collar and more junior levels.

Bull Thompson and Associates, a management and executive search company, has found that it now takes an average of three or four months for a professional person to gain another job, compared with one or two months in 1990.

The company has also noticed the trend towards con-

tracting and consultancy work. "What they miss most is the sense of discipline, of turning up together, of being able to talk to their fellows in an office as they once did," Mr

Repach said. "They know here they are not alone."

The change from the vicar's normal duties has a literary, if less worthy, echo. An English ballad, *The Vicar of Bray*, describes how the vicar retained his living by switching ecclesiastical allegiance from the time of Charles II to George I.

The modern scheme is supported by the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev John Bone, who said: "Unemployment is an enormous emotional and spiritual crisis, and this is an example of what can be done."

The unemployed executives include former sales managers, directors, accountants, engineering managers and university lecturers. One lost a salary of £80,000, and his marriage broke up. When he sought help from the scheme,

he was living out of his car. The scheme members, mostly men, meet twice a week in a fourteenth century chapel on the Thames. They share their experience of being told that they are either too old or too well qualified for thousands of jobs.

Unemployment in Berkshire is 6.5 per cent, below the national average of 9.7 per cent, but white-collar workers have been hit hard. Many suffer additional trauma because of the surrounding affluence in an area with traditionally high employment.

The unemployed qualify for government-run job clubs only after six months without work, and most clubs recommend a stay of four to six months. St Michael's has no time limits.

Vicar offers material and spiritual support

By RUTH GLEDHILL

PRAYING for a job may seem the only option left to many of Britain's unemployed executives, but a church in Berkshire is offering practical as well as spiritual help in the search for work.

The Rev George Repach, vicar of Bray, has opened his church hall to a support group that finds work for the growing number of redundant managers in his parish and surrounding areas.

A third of the members of St Michael's Executive Resourcing, a self-help group sponsored by the parish and the local Rotary Club, have already found work through the group. At its annual meeting, the remaining 20 members set up a limited company to meet increasing demands for



Mr Repach: "They know they are not alone"

THE AGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Number unemployed in July of each year in UK				
	18-24	25-49	50 plus	All ages (at year end)
Male and female				
1990	487.7	837.2	286.9	1,622.8
1991	736.2	1,256.6	370.1	2,362.9
1992	823.3	1,508.3	428.5	2,774.0
Male				
1990	328.6	537.7	224.8	1,122.1
1991	511.0	878.1	289.8	1,724.2
1992	576.3	1,186.9	338.4	2,108.7
Female				
1990	159.1	299.5	72.0	431.5
1991	225.2	378.5	80.3	585.2
1992	247.0	321.4	91.1	659.5

Source: Employment Gazette

tracts. "Short-term contracts and interim management have increased in the past 18 months, reflecting the fact that companies are reluctant to create new positions," Nicholas Wyde, senior associate, said.

He believes that uncertainty over the Maastricht treaty has

increased that reluctance. "A lot of companies are jittery about the future of Europe. They are waiting to see what is going to happen before deciding if they can take on more people," he said. He does not expect an upturn in the jobs market until the spring at the earliest.

Poison bait the last chance for red squirrel

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE red squirrel could disappear from England and Wales within ten years, according to a new survey of forests.

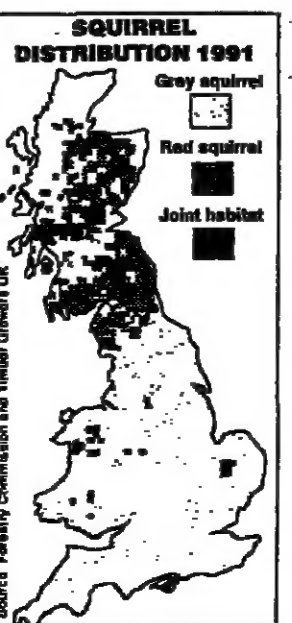
As the red squirrel declines, its larger and more assertive grey cousin, introduced from North America a century ago, is moving northwards, colonising red territory. The grey squirrel is by far the more destructive, especially of broadleaved trees such as beech and oak, which the government is trying to persuade farmers to plant. Bark-stripping by the grey squirrel, which distorts tree growth and reduces timber value, is estimated to cost the forestry industry at least £1 million a year.

Peter Wilson, chief executive designate of Timber Growers UK, which represents about 2,300 woodland owners, said: "If the government really wants to see more planting of broadleaved trees of the kind people want, then they have



At risk: the red squirrel is finding survival hard

got to take the threat from the grey squirrel more seriously. The grey is running unchecked into the remaining strongholds of the red and, if this continues, the native squirrel will be extinct in ten years or so in England and Wales. In Scotland, it might hang on a bit longer."



In England and Wales, the red squirrel survives in any numbers only in the Isle of Wight, Northumberland and Cumbria, being confined elsewhere to isolated pockets. In

Scotland, its main redoubt, numbers are shrinking. Poisoning is the most effective way to control the mainly ground-dwelling grey, but the law forbids use of poisoned bait in areas inhabited by both species. Yet it is in these "frontier" zones that the struggle for survival is fiercest and the need for control greatest.

The author of the survey, Harry Pepper, a Forestry Commission researcher, is testing a feeding hopper of poisoned grain that allows access only to the grey squirrel. "The hopper has a tunnel entrance and a flap door at the end, which has to be pushed up. We are pretty certain that only the larger and more inquisitive grey can lift the door, but we have not yet been able to prove that the hopper is absolutely red-squirrel proof," he said.

Timber Growers UK wants legislation permitting use of the hopper, likely to be ready in a year or so.

Leading article, page 13

FO staff to assess superiors

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Foreign Office has introduced a personnel management strategy that allows frustrated staff to offer a full and frank assessment of the quality of management provided by their immediate superiors.

Under the staff appraisal system, managers are expected to assess the performance and potential of their staff, while subordinates are invited to pass judgment on the skill of their immediate bosses in helping them to achieve set targets. All aspects of work, including whether staff have achieved key objectives and whether their performance has been unacceptable or outstanding, is put in writing and shown to both boss and subordinate.

It is realised that employees may fear that being too frank might hinder prospects. In spite of a call for staff to be as open and honest about their bosses as line managers are about subordinates, a Cabinet

Office publication has admitted that the system will work "only if jobholders speak up". Initial reports indicate that junior grades and middle management have adapted to the unfamiliar customs more easily than long-serving staff who are reticent about judging management. Among some staff there is a feeling that comments about a line manager may be best left to informal discussion rather than put in writing.

The system was introduced after the first review of personnel management at the Foreign Office since the 1960s, which included seeking the help of outside consultants for the first time. A 1990 study by Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte analysed 1,000 responses from members of the diplomatic service and found that 72 per cent felt the personnel operations department, abolished last year, had failed to give them a regular picture of their career prospects, while

61 per cent felt their careers had been badly managed.

Peninah Thomson, a consultant in human resources, said the system had been conventional practice in business for several years. "We thought senior FO management should move to a more open culture which is quite hard for an organisation that is, to an extent, predicated on secrecy. The FO has taken a brave and imaginative step in going for open appraisal," she said.

The new openness does, however, have limits. It is not applicable to senior diplomats in Grades 1 to 4, although personnel managers are studying whether appraisal should be extended to cover the top rungs.

"I didn't think senior ambassadors would be included in the system because introducing upward appraisal at the highest level would truly be a culture shock," Miss Thomson said.

Union leaders put pressure on Smith over devaluation

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Smith was facing a challenge to his economic policy last night after the leaders of two big unions demanded an emergency devaluation of sterling to halt the recession.

Only hours before the Labour leader arrived at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, John Edmonds of the GMB and Alan Jinkinson of Nalco, put him under intense pressure by openly repudiating his policy of supporting moves to defend the value of the pound within the European exchange rate mechanism.

Mr Edmonds, whose union sponsors Mr Smith, denounced sterling's "madcap" rate within the ERM and called for an "early realignment". He added: "The impossibly high exchange rate is pushing up interest rates and turning Britain into a rust-bucket economy."

Mr Jinkinson said that interest rates should be cut substantially and the pound devalued.

Arriving in Blackpool, Mr Smith said he believed the way to end the recession was through a reduction in interest rates. He was "not in favour of a devaluation of sterling because I believe that would not assist in the reduction of interest rates". But he supported calls for a revaluation of the mark. "We must get interest rates down right across the Community and if it would assist the Germans to reduce their interest rates then I do not think the Community can rule out a revaluation of the Deutschmark against the other currencies in the system."

Mr Smith now has a fight on his hands as he struggles to hold the line in the run-up to Labour's conference at the end of the month. Nalco is not affiliated to the Labour party and has no voice at the conference, but the 900,000

ECONOMY

votes of the GMB, the general workers' union, are a sizeable block of opinion.

Mr Smith is firmly on the pro-European wing of the Labour party and as shadow chancellor fought the last election strongly committed to ERM membership. He repeatedly ruled out devaluing the pound. Since his elevation to the Labour leadership, he has held to this line while not ruling out a general realignment of EC currencies against the mark. More recently, Labour leaders have limited themselves to calling for co-ordinated EC action to reduce interest rates and advocated tax breaks for industry.

Mr Edmonds said in the TUC debate on Europe that if the unions were serious about stopping unemployment rising to four million, one step had to be taken as quickly as possible. "That is to change the value of the pound against the Deutschmark."

"We can only maintain this madcap exchange rate by killing off jobs, by killing off companies... by killing off our

industrial future... An early realignment is essential if we are to live without further agony in the ERM."

Addressing reporters later, Mr Edmonds later said he was speaking on behalf of his union, not the Labour party or the TUC. He was not calling for British withdrawal from the ERM, but he did want the British government to take the lead in triggering a devaluation within the currency grid.

Some observers were inclined to see Mr Edmonds's intervention as a piece of kitemarking intended to keep open Mr Smith's options.

Mr Jinkinson went even further in demanding "devaluation now". He said in a statement that the "terrible economic effects of Britain's joining the ERM as a grossly overvalued rate to the pound have become obvious". Firms are collapsing, unemployment is rising, homes are being repossessed and public spending is in crisis.

Nalco accused the trade union movement of giving implicit support to the government's economic strategy by "refusing to face up to the fact of sterling's overvaluation and the high interest rates required to support the pound".

Bill Jordan, president of the million-member engineering and electrical union, the AEEU, said yesterday's debate was the wrong time and place for Mr Edmonds to raise his concerns. "Saying this undermines certainty, undermines confidence and undermines jobs."

Mr Edmonds insisted that he supported the government's decision to enter the ERM. "To go into the ERM was a good thing, but to go in at 2.95 Deutschmarks was crazy. They cannot sustain this rate."

Leading article, page 13



Edmonds: UK becoming a "rustbucket economy"



In his own image: Ron Todd, the former general secretary of the TGWU, with his retirement gift, a giant banner of himself. Mr Todd is presenting the banner, which was painted by theatrical set designers and stands more than 10ft high, to Manchester's National Museum of Labour History

'Beauty contest' deals attacked

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

UNION LAW

THE TUC is gearing up for a head-on clash with the government when Parliament resumes in the autumn over its plans to end the arrangements by which unions have agreed not to compete for members.

Delegates supported a motion to maintain the so-called Bridlington Principles as the basis for dealing with inter-union relations and developing orderly collective bargaining structures.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union called for an end to the "beauty parades" where single-union agreements are drawn up at the expense of other unions, splitting the trade union movement.

Jack Carr, the MSF assistant general secretary, said foreign companies were increasingly investing in Britain. "We can respond to this as a united movement, defending fundamental rights enshrined in international law and international best practice, or we can squabble amongst ourselves with the most employer-friendly unions engaging in a grotesque Dutch auction of workers' rights."

Mr Carr said MSF was not against single-union agreements, but he said workers should choose the unions to represent them, not the employers. Gavin Laird, general secretary of the engineers' union, the AEEU, accused the MSF and other unions of joining in the so-called beauty contests and then trying to fudge the deals all had excellent training provisions, good wages, equal pay and pensions and consultation on investment policy.

Diana Warwick of the Association of University Teachers said disputes among TUC members were inevitable, but it needed a forum to resolve them. "To declare a free-for-all is to invite chaos and disintegration."

The TUC is now committed to finding a new system of inter-union rules and procedures which would be binding on affiliates.

Link with party is defended

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR's review of the party's relationship with the trade unions will not lead to the union link being broken, according to a prominent member of the joint party-union review body.

This clear statement from Dr Lewis Minkin, an academic

LABOUR

and probably the foremost authority on the relationship between the trade unions and the Labour party, will disappoint those — including some senior Labour frontbenchers — who believe that the party's links with the unions must be broken, or at least radically altered, if Labour is to stand any chance of winning power at the next general election.

Though co-opted on to the review committee, which was set up following sharp criticism of the Labour-union link in the wake of the party's election defeat in April, Dr Minkin's views about the importance of maintaining rather than scrapping the relationship already hold considerable sway among both Labour and union leaders.

Speaking in public for the first time since the formation of the review body, Dr Minkin said it was vital that the entire issue of the Labour-union link was off Labour's agenda by next year.

Addressing a fringe meeting at the TUC conference in Blackpool, he said: "Those who hope to see the unions and the party divorce or fall apart will be very disappointed." Instead, he said the aim of the review committee on the union-Labour link "should be to strengthen it with an agreement which takes us into the next century".

TUC SKETCH by Philip Bassett

Scargill rises to the historic occasion

YOU could tell that Howard Davies, the director-general of the CBI, was about to speak: Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, bent down in his seat to tie his shoes properly in preparation for a wholly unplanned spontaneous walkout. Came the moment, came the man: Mr Davies stood up to speak, Mr Scargill — shoes firmly tied — stood up to go.

Across windy Blackpool, the Labour party leader, John Smith, was getting a quieter reception. All he had to face was questions about such irrelevant issues as Maastricht, devaluation, pay restraint and the Labour-union link. Howard Davies had to face Mr Scargill.

That a spontaneous unplanned walkout was looming became clear when reporters and television crews began to gather where they could best see Mr Scargill. The novelty of a CBI leader addressing the TUC for the first time in 124 years was no match for one of the TUC's longest-running performances: Mr Scargill, seizing the limelight.

Up went Mr Davies. Out went Mr Scargill. On cue, he fulminated on camera: "I am not prepared to take part in this charade. It's disgusting that he was invited." With that he was gone. With him went about 40 others, from such unions as the RMT transport workers, the Ucaft construction union and the GPMU print workers.

Back inside the hall, an NUT teacher from Camden in London, Kevin Courtney, shouted out that Mr Da-

vies's presence was an outrage. But at the back of the hall, one delegate roared at Mr Scargill's departing back: "No wonder your union's going down the tubes! You're a disgrace!"

Mr Davies rode it all well, laconically describing the incident as "a good recruiting effort for the Conservative party". In a brave and clever speech, he pulled few punches, repeating his calls for a public sector pay freeze, but also attacking directors' pay rises.

Some union general secretaries complained privately that left-wingers had obtained advance press copies of the speech and had circulated them around union delegations, pointing out the passages likely to prove objectionable.

Barracking there was, but rounds of applause, too, including a final ovation lasting a good 15 seconds — not bad for the first speech by an employers' leader to the TUC.

To general approval from most union delegations, especially for the offer of a future dialogue with the TUC on such issues as training and Europe, Mr Davies left the platform. Asked about Mr Scargill's "disgusting" charge, he remained cool: "I don't think it's disgusting. That seems to be a problem that he's got with the TUC — not with me."

He left Blackpool unfazed by Mr Scargill: "An Arthur Scargill walkout is like rained-off cricket matches at Lords — it's part of the British way of life."

Workers call for better training

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TRADE unions are to put training on the bargaining agenda. The TUC is launching a nationwide campaign to teach officials how to negotiate better training for workers at the same time as they are bargaining for pay rises and improved working conditions.

The strategy was announced after a poll for the TUC by NOP showed that almost seven out of ten workers were interested in developing their skills further. Only a quarter were satisfied by the amount of training provided by their employer.

Interest in training among manual workers was especially high, with 74 per cent saying they were keen to learn additional skills. The desire to be better trained was common to men and women of all ages.

Leif Mills, chair of the TUC's Education and Training committee, said many employers were failing to provide their workers with the skills necessary to meet overseas competition.

Unless trade unions increased pressure on companies, the national training targets set by government and

endorsed by both the TUC and the employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry, would not be met. The targets say that firms should seek to ensure that at least half of their employees are qualified to level three of the new National Vocational Qualifications, NVQs, by the year 2,000. NVQ 3 is a supervisory level qualification broadly equivalent to A-levels.

"This economy will not have a future unless the level of skills is increased," Mr Mills said. "Too many employers are just sitting back."

DELEGATES will discuss calls for new pensions legislation following the Maxwell scandal. Unions want legislation enshrining the principle that occupational pension fund contributions are a form of deferred pay, and that the fund belongs to the scheme members. They also want a state compensation scheme.

Economic policy will also be discussed, including unemployment and the manufacturing industry.

In the afternoon the TUC will discuss low pay, public sector pay, the Post Office and Sunday trading.

Reforms raise fears for 999 service

BY ROSS TIEMAN

THE 999 emergency service could fail at times of crisis if proposals to concentrate operators in three regional centres are implemented, unions say.

TUC delegates will today hear from telecommunications unions of their fears that reforms will lead to a lower standard of service.

The unions insist they have no axe to grind, because they will represent operators wherever they work. But they say suggestions from Ofel, the telecom-

munications watchdog, could remove the flexibility which ensures the service does not fall during unexpected demand peaks, and may also place unbearable strain on operators.

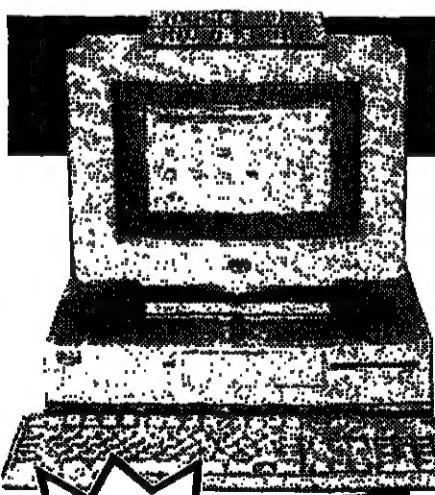
Union concerns were triggered by a consultation document, issued by Ofel, that suggested the 999 service could be provided by three dedicated centres. Maintaining the service is estimated to cost £30 million a year.

According to the Union of Communications Workers (UCW) there are about 2,000 operators available at any time

who can drop less critical work to handle emergency calls if necessary. The large number of operators involved enables staff to be rotated between tasks to ease the stress of dealing with emergency calls.

Under draft Ofel proposals, the union insists, as few as 150 operators would be available at any one time to man the 999 service. In addition, routing calls to just three national centres would lead to the loss of local knowledge, and possible difficulties in understanding regional accents.

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Old sins come back to haunt candidates in the last lap

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE 1992 presidential election, supposedly concerned with America's future, is becoming increasingly focused on alleged sins and omissions in the candidates' pasts.

To destroy voter confidence in Governor Bill Clinton, the Bush camp has begun exploiting his avoidance of military service in Vietnam. The more the Arkansas governor seeks to explain what happened 23 years ago the more he appears, in President Bush's words, "slippery when wet". Privately, Clinton aides now consider the issue the campaign's biggest threat.

Mr Clinton is retreating in kind. On Monday he changed tactics abruptly and directly challenged Mr Bush's assertion that as vice-president he was "out of the loop" during the Iran-Contra scandal. "You do your job with him like you did with me," he challenged reporters. George Mitchell, the Senate's Democratic leader, repeated that demand yesterday, suggesting a concerted

month period in 1968. "It's all news to me," Mr Clinton insisted. He was then forced to admit that he had been told last March of his uncle's lobbying efforts. Once again it appeared he had been less than candid.

The Bush camp believes it can still win in November if it can paint Mr Clinton as evasive and untrustworthy, not to mention unpatriotic. It sees this as the perfect issue given Mr Bush's exemplary war record and Mr Clinton's aspirations to be America's commander-in-chief. In the final analysis, Americans would not vote "for a person they've got grave questions about — questions about his character, questions about his trust," said Vice-President Quayle, himself nearly derailed by draft-dodging allegations in 1988.

Mr Clinton's appearances are often accompanied by a small plane trailing a banner saying "Draft Dodger", or by similar signs in the crowds, and on Monday in Wisconsin Mr Bush delivered his most open attack yet on Mr Clinton's draft record. Mocking his opponent's claim to Harry Truman's mantle, he observed that Truman "wanted to join the military and fight for his country. And so did I. And I did."

Mr Clinton hit straight back. The impending prosecution of Casper Weinberger has thrown up a memorandum recording a conversation between the former Defence Secretary and George Shultz, then Secretary of State, in 1987. That memo called into question "not only the President's veracity, but his support for illegal conduct," Mr Clinton charged.

The conversation concerned a *Washington Post* interview in which Mr Bush claimed he had been "out of the loop" on the Iran-Contra affair and did not know Mr Weinberger and Mr Shultz had both opposed the arms-for-hostages operation. The note records Mr Weinberger protesting: "That's terrible. He was on the other side. It's on the record. Why did he say that?"

Asked about the memo in an interview last Sunday, President Bush countered that Iran-Contra had been the subject of "millions of dollars worth of investigation... If I had done anything wrong, they'd have been all over me like you can possibly imagine." He had "nothing to explain", he added.



effort was under way to divert attention. All this was not in the script.

Two weeks ago Mr Clinton appeared before the American Legion, the veteran servicemen's organisation, to make "one final statement" on a draft issue that has dogged him since the New Hampshire primary in February. He gave his version of events, urged his audience to look forward not back, and was applauded by potentially his harshest critics. The aim was inoculation. "It's impossible for the Republicans to try to resurrect this issue again, given how warmly he was accepted by the Legion," an aide crowed, but the *Los Angeles Times* swiftly punctured that euphoria.

Previous stories focused on Mr Clinton's draft dodging while studying at Oxford in late 1969. This one claimed his uncle had successfully lobbied to prevent his induction during a vulnerable ten-

Florida given aid pledge

FROM MICHAEL FLEEMAN IN HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday that he would ask Congress for \$7.6 billion (£3.8 billion) in emergency aid for cleaning and rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

He spoke as voters trickled to the polls for Dade County's hurricane-delayed primary election, just one of many signs that south Florida was struggling to return to some semblance of normality.

Mr Bush announced the aid figure during a meeting with members of Congress. President Yeltsin of Russia also sent his condolences to Mr Bush over the hurricane deaths and offered to send Russian workers and machinery to help.

In Florida, the army said that it was opening another "tent city" for refugees, even as relief officials claimed to be moving towards reconstruction. Military officials said on Monday that they would open a tent city at the Micoosukee Indian reservation on the fringe of the Everglades. The Micoosukee tribe's huts and caravans were badly damaged in the storm. (AP)



Out of court: Barbra Streisand reacting to cameramen before the match between Andre Agassi and Carlos Costa at the US Open Tennis Championships in New York

Thatcher attends ceremony in Baku

Margaret Thatcher arrived in Azerbaijan's capital of Baku yesterday as a guest of Azerbaijani authorities. The former prime minister was scheduled to meet President Elchibey and attend the ceremonial signing of an agreement between the southern republic's government and BP. Under the agreement, oil deposits in the Caspian Sea will be developed.

Russian leader would be allocated seats normally reserved for Emperor Akhito.

Shulamit Ran, whose *Symphony* took a 1991 Pulitzer Prize, has won first prize in the Kennedy Centre Friedhelm Awards for the piece, making her the first woman to win top honours for new works by American composers.

A state luncheon planned tomorrow for Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah's visit to Wellington has been cancelled because the Emir of Kuwait will need a siesta. He is visiting New Zealand to thank the people for their support during the Gulf war. The Emir was to be guest of honour at a banquet to which 250 guests had been invited.

The Dark Side of the Heart, an offbeat comedy by Argentine director Eliseo Subiela about a love affair between a poet and a prostitute, has won top prize at the Montreal World Film Festival. *Sofie*, a film set in 19th-century Denmark that marks actress Liv Ullmann's debut as a director, won the special Grand Prix du Jury.

Japan will grant Russian president Boris Yeltsin's wish to see some sumo wrestling during his Tokyo visit, but security dictates that he must sit behind a bullet-proof shield. Japanese news reports said. The *Japan Times*, said the

Comedian Jerry Lewis's 27th annual muscular dystrophy telethon raised a record \$45,759,368 despite complaints from victims of the disease who said that what disabled people most needed was jobs.

Egyptians unearth Copts' tragic past

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A rare insight into the persecuted lives of early Christians in Egypt has been unearthed near the pyramids at Giza with the discovery of one of the country's earliest Christian communities.

The settlement, complete with well-manicured streets and mud brick houses — one still with blackened ashes in its hearth — dates back to the first centuries after Christ, a time of great persecution for Egypt's Coptic Christians. Ironically, the find comes as the Copts, who make up about seven million of the present 57 million Egyptians, are again facing attacks, this time from Muslim fundamentalists. In some shun areas, churches are guarded by troops.

Referring to the nine houses so far uncovered by the Egyptian antiquities organisation, Abd al-Moez, an inspector, said: "Some of the artefacts show the games Copts had to play. They could not draw crosses for fear of persecution, so they drew flowers and other symbols they themselves understood to represent a cross. Outsiders would see only a decoration."

The Copts, who claim they are today prevented from taking top government jobs and complain of countless other examples of discrimination are a cornerstone of Christianity, with roots stretching back to St Mark's arrival in Egypt in the first century AD.

This is one of the few ancient Coptic settlements

we have," said Gawdat Gabra, director of Cairo's Coptic museum. Previously, a handful of Coptic ruins dating back to the same period have been discovered near ancient monasteries and hermitages.

Egypt once contained many Coptic ruins, including ones similar to that now unearthed on a hillside at Nazlet el-Batran about two miles from the Sphinx. But early archaeologists often destroyed Coptic remains to get to the treasures of the pharaohs buried beneath.

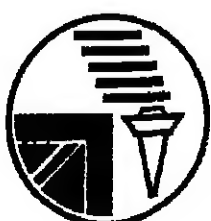
The dwellings so far discovered are uncannily similar to Egyptian village houses of today. The find is regarded as of great importance because of the glimpse it offers into the daily life of the early Christians. The community appears to have been poor like many of the Christians of that period in Egypt.

Excavations so far have yielded a number of Coptic relics, some looking as though they were abandoned only yesterday. One large jar with four exquisite Coptic pictures was found in its place beside a corner room.

One house still contains wooden pieces which supported a heavy door. Other relics include decorated limestone pillars, engraved with flowers and plants. One relic bears an early cross and a tiny statue of the Virgin Mary was found in one house. Roman coins unearthed among the ruins date part of the settlement to the second and third centuries AD.




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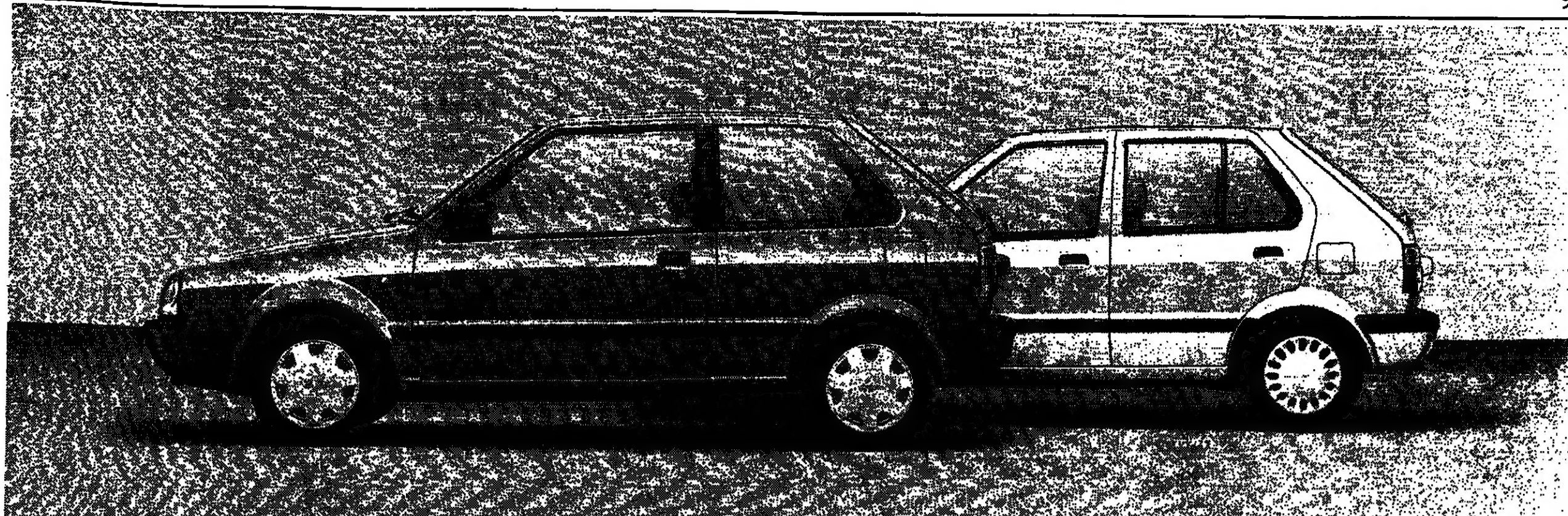
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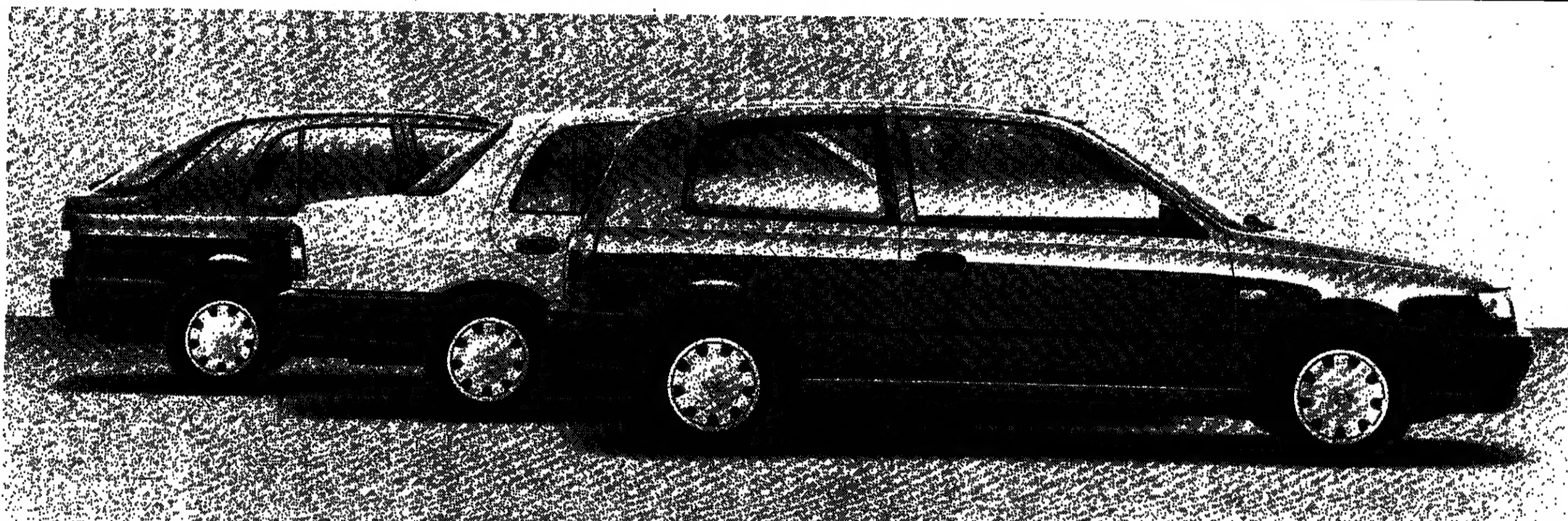


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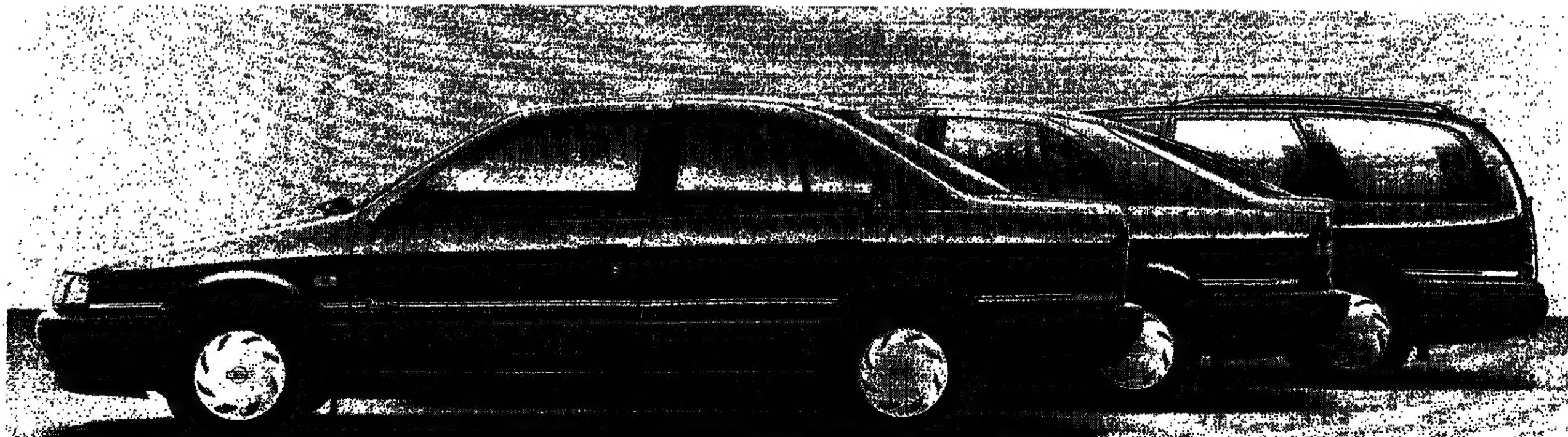


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SUNNY 1.4 RANGE	L	LX
0% APR finance available*	✓	✓
Other low-rate finance deals available	✓	✓
3, 4 or 5-doors	✓	✓
16-valve twin-cam engine	✓	✓
Security-coded MW/LW/FM stereo radio/cassette	✓	✓
Tailgate wash/wipe (except 4-door)	✓	✓
3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty	✓	✓

With 16-valve twin-cam engines on every model, the Sunny 1.4 range certainly has plenty to offer. From the £8,310 Sunny 3-door L to the 5-door LX at £10,100*. All 1.4 LX models come complete with the luxury of electric tilt/slide sunroof, tinted windows, split folding rear seat (except the 4-door which has a 'boot-through' feature), electric front and rear windows and central door locking. Once again, there's 0% and other low-rate finance packages available.

**PRICES INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT, BUT EXCLUDE ROAD FUND LICENCE AND DELIVERY CHARGE OF £75 (COVERING DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES AND FULL TANK OF PETROL).



The Primera Phoenix. From £10,995 with 0% APR finance, special editions with lots of special additions.

At £10,995** for the Primera Phoenix saloons, and £11,820**, for the Primera Phoenix Estate, you can have the best of both worlds – a special edition, full of extras, at a special price. As well as the features already highlighted in the table, all models feature power steering, central locking, special wheel covers, tilt/slide sunroof (not Estate), mudflaps and a 4-speaker, MW/LW/FM, security-coded radio cassette.

†FINANCE OFFERS AVAILABLE TO RETAIL CUSTOMERS ONLY. VEHICLES MUST BE REGISTERED AS SALOON BETWEEN 2ND SEPTEMBER AND 30TH NOVEMBER 1992. **PRICES INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUDE ROAD FUND LICENCE AND DELIVERY CHARGE OF £75 (COVERING DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES AND FULL TANK OF PETROL).

PRIMERA PHOENIX	
0% APR finance available*	✓
Special price	✓
4-door, 5-door and Estate	✓
Unique body styling	✓
Nissan car alarm and immobiliser	✓
Electric front and rear windows	✓
3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty	✓

Mitterrand musters glitterati to beat drum for Maastricht



Deneuve on a list of 300 celebrities

ELTON John and Clint Eastwood came on first, warming up the audience before the starring act of France's top television show on Monday night a sing-along by Charles Trenet and Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, and his wife.

The granddaddy M Bérégovoy rarely takes the stage outside political debate, let alone his wife, but there was a matter of timing. That night also saw the launch of the official campaign for Maastricht, a detail unmentioned by the Bérégovoy in their family appearance on Michel Drucker's first variety show of the season on TF-1, the commercial channel.

The show was just another instance of a phenomenon which has the anti-Maastricht campaigners spluttering with anger. This is the way that the Mitterrand campaign has co-opted the energies of just

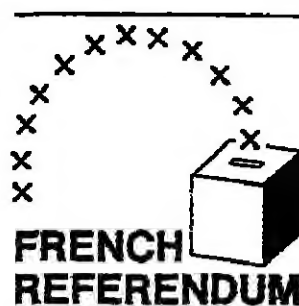
The bias of celebrities and the media in favour of a 'Yes' vote has left France's 'No' campaigners on the sidelines, writes Charles Bremner from Paris

about the whole establishment, from business captains to scientists and pop singers. L'Humanité, the Communist party paper, thundered yesterday against what it called a conspiracy and "sordid media manipulation". Philippe Séguin and Charles Pasqua, the leaders of dissenting Gaullist faction, complained that editors were too much in favour of a "Yes" vote.

The most glaring example of what is seen as one-sidedness was President Mitterrand's three-hour marathon last Thursday, also on TF-1. The so-called debate was tailored by the Elysée palace which picked three pro-

Maastricht journalists and relegated the high point, M Mitterrand's session with M Séguin, to a hurried half hour after 11pm, when viewers were exhausted. Philippe de Villiers, a dissident from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's UDF grouping, said the show demonstrated how "democracy and fairness are held in contempt in our country".

Equally frustrating for the "No" side is the distribution of campaign broadcasts, which began this week. By decree, the broadcasts are allotted according to the parliamentary representation of each party. This has given 84 minutes to the "Yes" parties and six



minutes to those supporting "No". The Gaullist Rally for the Republic of Jacques Chirac has another 30 minutes, but has managed to neutralise itself by splitting the time to reflect the disagreement among its deputies. The result is a bewildering performance in which viewers are being told the treaty is either wonderful or a disaster. Speaking for dissenting Socialists, Jean-Pierre Chevènement said the allocation of broadcasts had

gagged a side supported by 40 per cent of the left-wing electorate.

The deafening serenades of the pro-Maastricht orchestra spring partly from the old tradition of government influence on broadcasting. But beyond the question of dictates to news bosses lies the fact that the whole "audio-visual landscape", as it is called, is part of the elite network with close links to the Socialist-technocratic power which has ruled for a decade. Since most of its members favour Maastricht, along with almost all the chattering classes, there is little incentive to promote the "No" campaign.

The government is greatly helped by the way the treaty appeals to all sides, from business leaders and conservative high civil servants to the caviar gauche, M Mitterrand's Left Bank crowd for whom Europe has come to

replace the Utopia once promised by Marx. So few are the eminent opponents in the salons of Paris that hostesses are having a tough job balancing the table when they hold Maastricht dinner parties.

Thanks to the indefatigable Jack Lang, the celebrity culture minister, the government has been able to round up public endorsement from almost every famous actor, singer, film-maker, musician, ocean sailor and academician, a list running from Catherine Deneuve, Gérard Depardieu and Charles Aznavour to Plácido Domingo, Marguerite Duras and Luc Montagnier, the Aids pioneer. It does not take a cynic to recall that most of the glitterati on the 300-strong list benefit, sometimes extensively, from the generous patronage of M Lang's ministry.

Ronald Butt, page 12



Eastwood: given role of warming up audience

Waigel tells Germans to agree wage freeze or face tax increases

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AS AN embattled Helmut Kohl faced calls for a government of national unity, the German administration yesterday threatened new tax increases unless workers in the west agreed a voluntary two-to-three-year wage freeze. Introducing what he said was an "iron-hard savings budget," Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said his austerity programme would raise money for investment in the east while bringing down interest rates throughout Europe.

"German consolidation and stabilisation efforts will meet the expectations of our [EC] partners and provide the framework for a drop in interest rates," he said.

At the same time he promised to cut benefits for asylum

seekers and to find ways of stemming the flow of refugees entering the country. Last year accommodating asylum seekers cost taxpayers £5.3 billion. Resentment about the influx has led to the current attacks on foreigners, and a new poll shows that support for the far right is now over 10 per cent nationwide and is stronger in the west than in the east.

Herr Kohl told a meeting of his ruling Christian Democrats there was "not the slightest reason" for "disgraceful rumours" that Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrat Bundestag leader, had been plotting to challenge him and create a coalition with the Social Democrats.

Herr Kohl was blamed by the opposition in the Bundes-

tag for the right-wing unrest. Herr Waigel replied that the tough budget proved the government was taking a lead. But the fact that the record 435.65 billion mark budget has grown by 2.5 per cent since last year underlines the difficulties Herr Waigel is having finding money for restructuring the economy in the east. One mark in every five is already earmarked for the east but the government expects at least 150 billion marks a year will be needed for the rest of the century to honour Herr Kohl's promise to turn the east into a "flourishing landscape".

Herr Waigel deplored the way in which some big German banks have been advising customers to avoid planned investment taxes by sending money to Luxembourg. The Grand Duchy would not be allowed to become a tax haven, he said.

While calling for a wage freeze, the minister warned that workers must maintain high productivity. A 1 per cent drop in performance in the west would mean that there would be 30 billion marks less to invest in the east, he said. He had a gloomy view of the economy this year, with growth at just 1.5 per cent, down from the 2.5 per cent he predicted in the spring.

The government's economic difficulties, coupled with the inability of the Social Democrats to agree a coherent policy on limiting immigration, have significantly increased the numbers prepared to vote for extreme right-wing parties. Government parties announced yesterday that they intend tabling a draft law to limit the right of asylum.

A Marplan poll has found that 14.3 per cent in the west and 9.7 per cent in the east would vote for the radical Republican party. Among young people between 18 and 24 support for the far right was far higher, however — 20 per cent in the west and 24 per cent in the east. The poll found that up to 36.6 per cent in the west would consider voting for extremist parties, compared with 23.2 per cent in the east.

Eckhart Werthebach, head of German counter-intelligence, wrote in the *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung* yesterday that skinheads in the east were becoming increasingly political and brutal. It was also clear that their attacks were organised centrally.



Safe behind bars: children of asylum-seekers behind a gate yesterday at the Hinrichshagen refugee camp near Rostock, Germany, where they were moved after attacks by right-wing extremists forced another camp nearby to close

Owen joins Vance on mission to Balkans

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LORD Owen, the European Community's Balkans negotiator, will make his first visit to the region today when he flies to Zagreb with Cyrus Vance, the United Nations co-chairman of the Geneva conference. The two will go to Sarajevo tomorrow and Belgrade on Friday.

Their trip comes after Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, announced that he would accept the deadline imposed by Lord Owen to place all heavy weapons under UN control. There was some confusion on the starting date, but a UN spokesman said that even if this was not until Saturday, the joint Owen-Vance deadline, the announcement was still good news.

Dr Karadzic promised in London to place all heavy weapons under UN supervision within 96 hours, and would complete the round-up seven days later. The spokesman said the two negotiators would have a chance to assess the situation on the ground themselves. They will also press the warring groups for guarantees that harassment of humanitarian relief would stop, and have called representatives to Geneva to discuss the resumption of aid.

Lord Owen was in Britain yesterday to co-ordinate work with his aides. He is likely to return on Saturday to brief EC foreign ministers, who will be meeting informally at Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire, over the weekend to discuss EC policy on former Yugoslavia, among other things. The UN has poured cold water on hopes that relief flights to Sarajevo could soon be resumed after a five-day suspension. Italy also said that any resumption of flights to Bosnia was "unthinkable" unless the UN introduced security measures to prevent any more planes being shot down.

The people of Sarajevo yesterday were running short of food, medical supplies and other essentials because of the interruption to relief flights. Officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said stocks were almost exhausted, and not enough was coming in by land.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said yesterday in Paris that he would ask the UN Security Council to authorise air cover for relief convoys in Bosnia if countries offered to provide protection.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Date set for Lithuania withdrawal

RUSSIA agreed yesterday to pull all former Soviet troops out of Lithuania by the end of August 1993, speeding up the process by more than a year (Anne McElvoy writes). President Yeltsin held talks in Moscow with President Landsbergis and set a new timetable for the removal of about 20,000 troops from the Baltic state.

Mr Landsbergis praised the "good nature and international expertise" of Mr Yeltsin in securing the deal but he added: "Certain sections of the defence and foreign ministry have... tried to stand in the way of this."

Asked whether the Lithuanian deal set a precedent for Latvia and Estonia, Mr Landsbergis said: "As far as I am concerned... what goes for one should go for all." Estonia and Latvia had pressed Mr Landsbergis to maintain a united front on the date but now appear to hope that Lithuania's agreement can act as a precedent.

But the position of Estonia and Latvia with their large Russian populations is more complicated. Mr Yeltsin's negotiators have linked withdrawal dates to the granting of citizenship to Russians — something Riga and Tallin are resisting. Latvia and Estonia also have naval bases that Moscow is disinclined to forfeit without exacting a price.

Builders strike

Athens: Riot police used batons and tear gas to disperse striking building workers demonstrating against a social security bill and austerity measures outside the national economy ministry in central Athens. (Reuters)

Court rules

Becharof: The supreme court has ruled on appeal that President Iliescu can stand for parliament for the Democratic National Salvation Front although the president cannot belong to a political party. (Reuters)

Japan ages

Tokyo: Japan has more than 4,000 centenarians, the highest number since records began. At an average of 82.1 years for women and 76.1 for men, Japanese live longer than any other nationality. (Reuters)

Still running

Rome: Italian police, delighted to have captured Giuseppe Madonia, allegedly the Mafia's second in command, have been sobered by a report that 12,000 suspected criminals are still on the run. (Reuters)

Visit called off

Seoul: A trail-blazing trip by South Korean business leaders to communist North Korea has been called off because the two countries could not agree on the composition of the South Korean delegation. (Reuters)

Savage sighted

Peking: Thousands of tourists have descended on China's Shennongjia national parks hoping to glimpse "savage", a giant, man-like beast covered with red hair, said by locals to be seen loping through the brush. (Reuters)

Cave man

Madrid: The Alava provincial government has started legal action to recover £67,000 it gave an archaeology student to study cave paintings he had discovered after officials spent £1,000 proving he had faked them.

Nordic economies suffer in the worst of possible worlds

FROM TONY SAMSTAG, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT

NORDIC currency markets were in upheaval yesterday after the Finnish central bank announced that it had allowed the markka to float outside the exchange rate mechanism. The announcement, which was followed by an eight-point increase in the Swedish marginal lending rate, was seen as a harbinger of a second Finnish devaluation in less than a year.

In recent months, rising short-term interest rates and plunging equity prices throughout the Nordic region have been variously attributed to uncertainty over the fate of the Maastricht treaty, interest rate pressures from Germany, instability in the European monetary system and the weakness of the dollar. Nordic currencies have been shunned by investors, and big capital outflows from Finland and Sweden in particular have aggravated insecurity among minority or coalition governments grappling with impending EC membership.

As EC membership beckons, individual Nordic economies have begun to follow European patterns more closely than during the years when the European Free Trade Association was still seen as a viable alternative to the Community. Denmark has been an EC member for a generation; Sweden and Finland have applied for membership, and Norway for the first time in 20 years is trying seriously to take the decision to apply. The recent pattern in these countries, as elsewhere in Europe, has been decreasing inflation, now averaging below 3 per cent, while unemployment has risen to levels previously considered unacceptable in non-EC Scandinavia, well above 7 per cent.

Sweden, Norway and Finland are not part of the ERM; but they have individually chosen to tie their currencies to the Community, using fluctuation bands determined by the ecu or finely judged "baskets" of other European currencies. The Finnish decision to free its currency from this artificial restraint suggests that the attempt to anticipate full EC membership in this way may not have been a good idea.

In fact, the Nordic economies outside the EC seem to be suffering from the worst of both worlds. While they have spent the past five to ten years

trying to dismantle their protectionist financial systems to gain access to international markets, domestic political considerations have obliged them to maintain restrictive trade policies that would be laughed out of court elsewhere in Europe. One result has been a loss of faith by most important trading partners in a region that was once a byword for stability, efficiency and quality — compounded by the self-inflicted status of Scandinavian businessmen, newly at large in the world of global commerce, as innocents abroad.

EC membership will ultimately enable the Nordic economies to participate fully, for better or worse, in the financial and trade institutions that might at least have made their present troubles no worse than those of their European neighbours. The biggest danger for Scandinavia is that the interim period might prove so turbulent, particularly in the light of doubts over Maastricht, as to hinder or even abort their progress towards membership.

Pressure on pound, page 17
British gilts, page 20

ITALY NOTEBOOK by John Phillips

Top people's club for sale after Aga Khan feels the pinch

Times evidently are becoming hard even for the Aga Khan who, his Ciga group said yesterday, has put his exclusive Costa Smeralda Yacht Club in Sardinia up for sale at a gateway price of 12 billion lire (£5.6 million).

There have been persistent reports that Silvio Berlusconi, the media owner, wants to buy the prestige establishment whose 500 members enjoy a stupendous position overlooking the marina at Porto Cervo. But a Ciga official denied that the Milanese television mogul was a potential purchaser. "Only members will be admitted to the operation," Claudio Miorelli, the official, said.

The members include Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate, Sheikh Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil

minister, and Bill Koch, the American multimillionaire whose boat won the America's Cup this year.

Signor Berlusconi is not a keen enough yachtsman to number among the members. But in any case his aides have let it be known from Milan that he is not interested.

The newspaper *La Repubblica* said yesterday that the sale of the club, with the disposal of several of the Italian hotels in the Ciga chain, "ought to allow the Aga Khan to recover liquidity". It suggested that his finances have suffered, like those of nearly all the rich in Italy, from the repeated interest rate increases made recently to defend the struggling lira.

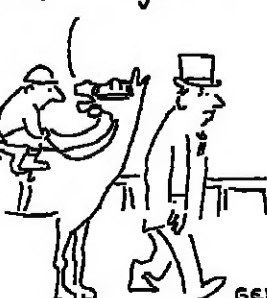
But whoever eventually buys the two-storey clubhouse, Signor Miorelli says

that "the end use of the building will not change".

Italians returning from their holidays who wish to confess their summer peccadilloes will be able to do so in comfort thanks to a new, increasingly popular "all mod cons" confessional box.

Turin cathedral already has installed one of the confessionals marketed by the appropriately named company Gemuflex, which is based in Treviso province. Paolo Lion, the owner of the company, takes credit for the design, which includes air conditioning for the summer, central heating for the winter and guaranteed sound-proofed walls to prevent eavesdropping by other members of the congregation. "We sell confessionals in all styles from

He's right down to his last yacht



the 17th to the 20th centuries, adapting them to the architecture of the church in question, Signor Lion said. "Inside, there are all comforts. One can kneel down before a grille, as in the past, or one can transform that small space into a real little lounge with armchairs, coffee

tables and soft lighting. The grating disappears and one can choose the ideal temperature."

Signor Lion says he is especially proud of the acoustics. "One can speak freely. Today confession is not a long list of sins but a dialogue with the priest. So it is important that those with hearing problems can feel at their ease, without fears that all the faithful will discover their sins."

The top model modern confessionals cost as much as 11 million lire, but Signor Lion provides discounts of up to two million lire for clergymen who turn in their old models in part exchange.

Alberto Ronchey, minister for cultural heritage, has banned the awards ceremony

of the annual Venice film festival from being held in St Mark's Square on Saturday.

Signor Ronchey took the decision after experts said that large crowds could damage the flagstones of the square, recalling the outrage felt when rock fans attended a Pink Floyd concert there.

City authorities, however, were upset by the ministerial decision, which they felt takes some glamour out of the festival and reduces its competitiveness with the rival extravaganza held at Cannes.

Signor Ronchey is unrepentant and says he will take an equally tough line to defend the heritage of Italy whenever necessary. "Every time I will refer to the opinion of experts. If the opinion is negative, I will not hesitate to take unpopular decisions."

Militants gambled that presence of journalists would restrain Ciskei troops

International press was no shield against barrage of bullets on the way to Bisho

CYRIL Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the African National Congress, flew into East London on the coast of the eastern Cape early on Monday to put the official ANC stamp on the planned demonstration against Brigadier Joshua Gqozo's government in Bisho, the capital of Ciskei, three miles outside King William's Town.

As he arrived, news came that a Ciskei magistrate had given permission for the marchers to enter the so-called homeland's territory, but only to go to a stadium 200 yards from the border. This restriction was not accepted by the leaders of the demonstration, who declared their intention of marching to Bisho's centre.

The marchers assembled in King William's Town and set off singing and dancing ahead of Mr Ramaphosa. Accompanying him was Gertrude Shope, the leader of the women's section of the ANC, and a group of leaders of the South African Communist Party, who had been planning this onslaught on Brigadier Gqozo's capital for some time. They included Chris Hani, secretary-general of the party,

Michael Hamlyn reconstructs the events that led to Brigadier Joshua Gqozo's troops opening fire and killing up to 28 ANC members in their march on Bisho

who used to be chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) the armed wing of the ANC, Ronnie Kasrils, another senior figure in Umkhonto as well as a central committee member of the Communist party and member of the ANC's national executive.

Also present was Raymond Suttner, another Communist and ANC executive member, who had spent the weekend telephoning all the foreign journalists he could to encourage them to attend. Their presence was to be a significant factor in the decisions that were made later.

Half way up the hill to Bisho, the march halted and the leaders sent Mr Kasrils and others ahead to reconnoitre. He reported that there was razor wire across the main road intended to funnel the marchers into the stadium along a dirt side road.

Ciskei troops lined this road. There were also troops behind an embankment alongside the main road inside the university campus.

When Mr Kasrils returned to make his report the group of leaders decided that a large section of the march should indeed follow the route they were directed along by the razor wire into the stadium, but that they should not stay in the stadium. Instead, they would go up to the line of troops beyond and attempt to brush past them into Bisho. Mr Kasrils and Mr Hani were given the task of leading this section. At the same time Mr Ramaphosa and others were to go to the wire barrier and try to negotiate a way through. The police, however, were not at the wire but some distance back.

Mr Kasrils yesterday justified the decision to try to rush the Ciskei line by saying that nobody would open fire on an unarmed crowd when the international press were present.

As the marchers, now some 70,000 strong, approached the brow of the hill where the border lies, Mr Kasrils and Mr Hani led their section off to the left towards the stadium. At this point Brigadier Wynand van der Merwe of the South African police, who had accompanied the marchers to the border, disappeared. He drove hastily to a police helicopter close by and flew back down into the valley.

Asked yesterday why he had done so, he said: "I could see what was going to happen, and I wanted to be out of the way." He insisted that he did

not have any advance information, and also did not think there would be a massacre with the international press present.

A large group of marchers had been surging forward through the bush to the left of the main march and they ran into the stadium ahead of the rest. Mr Kasrils ran outside the stadium round an earth bank which surrounds it on that side. He discovered the open access tunnel on the northeast side and began urging the by now sprinting demonstrators through it.

At this point Ciskei troops opened fire. There were no warning shots, and no warnings. It seemed to those present that a direct order to fire had been given for a veritable barrage opened up. The barrage lasted one and a half minutes, though it seemed to those of us exposed near the razor wire to be much longer than that.

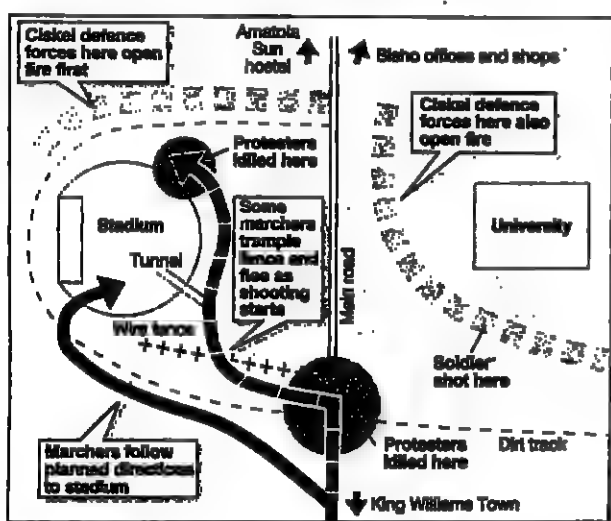
After a brief pause, a second barrage opened up and, for another two minutes, the marchers huddled to the ground. Finally it ended and people began to count the bodies.

Later in the day a statement by Brigadier Gqozo said his men had been fired on by the crowd and had been returning fire only in self-defence.

Mr Kasrils said the organisers had known there was a risk. "Throughout history, how has tyranny been toppled?" he asked. "Never without casualties. This is the nature of the struggle. People are prepared to accept sacrifice, provided the leadership is prepared to be with them."

Mr Ramaphosa said: "I have never been so scared in my life."

Police seal border, page 1
Leading article, page 13
The power of one, L&T, page 5



Prayer mission: Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town, left, and other church leaders who went to Bisho in an attempt to mediate, praying in the shadow of police armoured personnel carriers on the South Africa-Ciskei border yesterday

ANC pelts police at consulate

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African police cocked their rifles yesterday in a confrontation with African National Congress supporters marching on the Ciskei consulate in Johannesburg.

The protesters had tried to tear down a South African flag outside a nearby hotel. As police moved in to stop them, they were pelted with fruit and one was hit on the head by a flying bottle. Police cocked their rifles, but the constable who had been hit defused the situation. He gingerly rubbed his head and walked away.

In Cape Town, six ANC members were allowed into an

Years of blood

1960: Sixty-nine killed in Sharpeville during anti-apartheid protest.
1976: Riots in Soweto.
1984: Battles in Natal between UDF and Inkatha.
1985: Riots in Soweto and other Johannesburg townships spread.
1992: On June 17: Inkatha supporters raid Boipatong township, killing 43. On September 7, about 60,000 ANC supporters march on Ciskei, and Ciskei troops open fire.

office block housing the Ciskei consulate after a stormy confrontation with police.

The ANC in the Orange Free State announced that it would march today on the Qwaqwa homeland, on the border of independent Lesotho, to demand the resignation of Kenneth Mopeli, the chief minister.

A former Ciskei army officer claimed yesterday that Brigadier Marius Oelshig, commander of the Ciskei forces, was on secondment from the South African Defence Force. Colonel Gert Hugo said in a radio interview: "He has been in daily contact with Pretoria."

Patten to decide fate of dissidents

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE fate of two Chinese women dissidents is in the hands of Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, after Britain's refusal to grant them political asylum.

Liu Yijung, 29, and Lin Lin, 24, said they were activists during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. They escaped to Hong Kong last December and have been detained as illegal immigrants. They were nearly repatriated last Saturday after Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, rejected a request for asylum. But a last-minute ruling by a Hong Kong judge suspended plans to return them by force.

The Hong Kong High Court will tomorrow consider their application for a judicial review of the decision to deport them. But it is Mr Patten who will make the final decision on whether they can stay. Human rights groups, including Amnesty International, say they face persecution in China. Chinese officials in Hong Kong are pressing for their return.

Last night Lau Chin Shek, a legislator and activist, handed a petition to Mr Patten during a dinner reception for Alastair Goodlad, minister of state with special responsibility for Hong Kong. Mr Lau said the dissidents had difficulty proving their identities because they were robbed by the person who helped smuggle them to the colony.

Mr Patten was asked to consider new evidence showing Ms Liu was a journalist who wrote and circulated rebellious poems, and Ms Lin was a computer programmer who offered her refuge.

Amnesty said it had verified the women's claims from independent sources. Lawyers have released poems Ms Liu distributed in a leaflet in June 1989. Human rights activists are appealing to witnesses to produce more copies of her poems.

In June the then governor, now Lord Wilson of Tillym, rejected the pair's request for asylum on the ground that there was not enough evidence to support their case. The Home Office has not offered any explanation.

UN force's arrival renews fear of Somalia violence

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE first armed United Nations troops to protect aid workers and food convoys amid the anarchy of Somalia are due to arrive in the capital, Mogadishu, on Saturday.

The 60 soldiers from a Pakistani mechanised infantry battalion will be the vanguard for another 440 and will be charged with securing Mogadishu airport against looters and bandits who regularly interrupt relief flights.

Over the weekend, a worker with the International Medical Corps was murdered in front of the American director of the organisation by a 16-year-old who shot him point-blank, halting flights to the airport for two days.

The Pakistani troops, commanded by Brigadier General Imtiaz Shaheen, are known to be well trained and experienced (they come from the unit he ran as a colonel), and they may have to fight immediately on landing. The airport is under the "neutral" clan of the Hawadle, which has managed to maintain its hold on the vital installation despite successive attacks from rival clans, led either by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid or his arch-rival, Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

The airport has been a

lucrative source of revenue for the Hawadle, who charge \$50 a flight and often demand an additional \$10 from new arrivals, especially journalists. The threat of the Pakistanis breaking that monopoly is almost certain to be met with violence.

The troops' arrival will also be met with mixed feelings by aid workers. They would welcome improved security so that they can deliver aid effectively to the starving population of more than four million. But if fighting breaks out between UN forces, who have the right to return fire, and gunmen, all foreigners will become targets.

"We will just have to hope that sanity prevails among the insane," one aid official said yesterday. The UN plans to send another 3,000 troops to key positions in Berbera, Bosaso, Mogadishu and Kisumu over the coming months. Aid workers, however, say that the only immediate beneficiaries of the UN deployment will be the media.

Aside from a handful of correspondents working from Nairobi, few journalists visited Somalia until June, long after the famine was under way. Aid workers such as David Shearer, of the Save the Children Fund, and Stephen Tom-

lin, of the International Medical Corps, have been struck by the flood of media people to Somalia and by the insensitivity prevailing among many of them.

Television crews and photographers have come close to being shot for brandishing their equipment at gunmen, who resent having their picture taken, and at least five have been stripped and left in the street. Other crews arrive uninvited at aid workers' houses and, as Miss Pauline Dadds, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said, "drink the fridge dry and eat all the food".

One crew, from the American CBS network, was singled out for condemnation by the International Medical Corps. In Baidoa, they were accused of eating biscuits and drinking mineral water in front of starving children whom they then knocked off their feet with their camera tripods.

Peace pleas: Portuguese, American and Russian representatives, alarmed at the prospect of renewed civil war in Angola, pressed the country's main political rivals yesterday to form a government of national unity during the transitional period after this month's elections.

Uganda army violating human rights

SIX years after coming to power with a promise to protect human rights, the Uganda government had still not stopped serious human rights violations by the army, Amnesty International said yesterday. In the northern Nuba mountains of Sudan, the government has been engaged in a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" to remove non-Arabs from their homeland, according to Africa Watch.

Life for death

Johannesburg: The death sentence on Jerry Richardson, former head of Winnie Mandela's bodyguard, was commuted to life imprisonment.

Tip-off claimed

Jerusalem: Israeli agents were tipped off about a terrorist attack during the 1972 Munich Olympics in which 11 athletes died, but ignored the warning, it was reported. (AFP)

Police fined

Harare: Augustine Chihuri, Zimbabwe's chief of police, and a colleague were fined \$60 and given suspended jail terms of six months for handling stolen cars.

Jordan unearths Islamic arms

FROM REUTERS IN AMMAN

JORDAN has unearthed large weapons caches, including machineguns and explosives, in a round-up of illegal Muslim fundamentalist groups with foreign links, official sources said yesterday. "In one case, 140 machineguns, 50 hand grenades, over 20 pistols and some one million bullets were found buried in six cement bunkers near Amman," one source said. A state security

court will soon try nine members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) arrested last month in connection with the arms. Hamas, which is active in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and has close links with Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, issued a statement saying the arms were intended for the occupied territories. In Lebanon, Muslim fundamen-

talists and their Syrian-backed allies won a crushing victory in the third-round voting.

In another raid, liquid explosives, guns with silencers and machineguns were found in the possession of a previously unknown group calling itself Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami (Vanguard of Islamic Youth). Police have charged Yaoub Qarrash, a lower house deputy, with leading the organisation.

Punjab dreams of good life in Southall

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DAYALPUR

DAYALPUR, huddled between the sugar cane fields and rice paddies of eastern Punjab, is fast becoming a ghost town. Nearly half its people live abroad, mostly in England. Everybody wants to emigrate — Southall and Brixton seem to be viewed as the promised land. One man said his brother lived in Barking and worked on the railway.

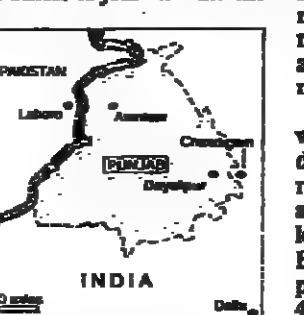
Every pukka house is owned by people abroad. The influx of money to relatives left behind has created bizarre distortions in the local economy, such as the construction of an electronic telephone exchange for a largely illiterate population of about 900. But they all have telephones and they make many calls to England.

America, Canada, Australia and the Middle East.

The village school is uncommonly prosperous. An inscription at the main gate says that it was established with money sent from abroad, mostly England. At the end of the main street, a dusty track edged by an open sewer, the Sikh temple has been given a new coat of white paint. It has so much money that the head priest is having a new house built. A television aerial sits on every little house and nearly everybody has a video recorder. Many people own generators to beat the incessant power cuts. A new clinic is being built and there is a 25-bed hospital.

The rest of rural Punjab looks on in wonderment. The

first person to emigrate from Dayalpur was a man called Gill, who went to England in 1952 and did well in business. He encouraged scores of others to join him and the

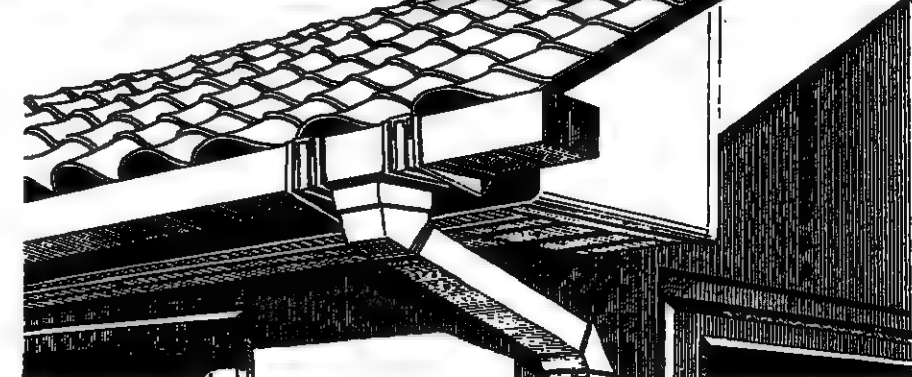


emigration tradition started. Jaswinder Kaur, 19, who was born in Huddersfield, returned to her father's village recently to take back to

England the man she married two years ago. In a northern English accent she said she "couldn't live here, like, but I don't mind coming for a visit, know what I mean? After all, I am British, not Indian." Even so, she agreed to an arranged marriage.

The village post office is where old men sit around discussing letters they have received from relatives abroad. Most of the people left behind are old. Every day Bhuneshwar Dutt, the sub-postmaster, handles about 40 letters from overseas. He said that several villagers who had lived in England for many years visited his post office regularly to collect their British old age pensions.

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Let the nation give its verdict

Ronald Butt on why the British, too, deserve a referendum on Maastricht

The prime minister says that he has "no hesitation" in rejecting a referendum in Britain on the Treaty of Maastricht. He admits that the French say No to it, the treaty is dead. But if they say Yes, by however narrow a majority, Mr Major wants the British people to be content with what he calls the "bristling passage" he expects the bill to have through Parliament as it is debated clause by clause, with the whips presumably imposing their discipline throughout.

His word "passage" clearly assumes that it will inevitably pass. The critics may speak, but are not expected to vote in numbers that would kill any important part of the bill. While something is to be cobbled together to appease the Danes, the British must be content with Mr Major's reinterpretation of the treaty. Whereas the Brussels supranationalists, including some of the commissioners, openly describe it as essentially a step towards their supranationalist goal, Mr Major reinterprets it as fully consistent with the expression of national interests, which he now administers the Community has previously failed to respect sufficiently.

So which is it? At a still deeper level does it ensure or undermine the future of effective democracy and law within the EC?

Democracy requires that voters should be able to grasp the arguments between politicians, discuss them among themselves and so create the public opinion to which the politicians must respond. For this a state should be of manageable size, with a shared political culture and a common language. Maastricht formally salutes the principle of "subsidiarity" or "minimum interference". But nationally expressed democracy may be worth little when all major policy-making is constrained by the needs of a single currency, a central bank, the single economic authority that is bound eventually to emerge, majority voting in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, and, not least, Brussels' power to initiate policies.

It has become fashionable to say that the Community has failed to carry its peoples along with its policies by sufficient explanation. But ambiguity about its destination and resistance to popular consultation have always marked the advance towards union. The time for that is past. Mr Major was right to sign at Maastricht. It was the best deal he could get, and had he refused, he would have been giving ammunition to those who falsely accuse the British of being bad Europeans. But now that others share British reservations, he should think again.

It will be said that a referendum would infringe the principle of parliamentary sovereignty, which served us well for centuries and will continue to do so. But to invoke it mechanically and dogmatically

against a referendum when it is the very power of the British parliament at stake is wrong. Parliamentary sovereignty is too important to be used as a political catchphrase, and like many precious things, it has a certain fragility. It is not, to start with, self-sufficient. Even after the revolution of 1688 had established parliamentary sovereignty, John Locke asserted the supreme power of the people — over parliament as much as over monarchs.

The power of parliament rests on adequate consultation with those who elect them. When some great question hangs over all others, it is usually possible to refer it to the people in a single-issue general election, as over the economic crisis in 1931. As far back as 1339, the Commons told the king that they "dare not assent" to a tax until they had "advised and consulted" their "communities" and had returned in a new parliament.



Locke: the power of the people is supreme

The "advising" or leading by politicians is important, but so is effective consultation.

It was clear at the last general election that the Community's future would be as great an issue for this parliament as Corn Law repeal and Irish Home Rule once were. But it could not be an issue in that election for lack of a clearly defined difference of principle on Maastricht between the parties. That remains the case, and a general election on it is still ruled out. For such cases, the idea of a referendum has been around since the 19th century, when Dicey unsuccessfully advocated it as a way to settle the Irish home rule question, and it was the referendum in Northern Ireland in 1973 which led to the British commitment to defend it as part of the United Kingdom as long as the majority there wish.

Nor is it true that referendums are inevitably conservative. The Liberals were for a time committed to one on tariff reform, and it was Labour which ordered the only British nationwide referendum, on the Community in 1975, and also the referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution in 1979. If ever direct reference to the people through a referendum is justified, it is surely when parliamentary elections cannot produce a clear verdict on a great subject, such as a possible transfer of authority away from parliament.

The nation is entitled to a chance to give a verdict on the Maastricht Treaty, and there are now only two feasible ways. One is an agreement between all the parties that it should be subject to a free vote in parliament, on the assumption that the unwieldy MPs would be a representative sample of the nation. The other is a referendum. Either course would allow a national debate. Parliamentary sovereignty deserves no less.

Ronald Butt is working on the second volume of his history of Parliament.

The work of lords lieutenant must go on even if counties are abolished, says John Grigg

Miniature monarchs

Whatever the future shape of local government, one ancient element of our counties should not be overlooked: the busy lords lieutenant. A typical entry in the Court Circular recently read: "By command of the Queen, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cotton) was present at Hawarden Airport this afternoon upon the arrival of the King and Queen of Spain, and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty."

The lords lieutenant were invented by Henry VIII to control the armed forces in each county, but their military role is now almost negligible, surviving only in their close association with the Territorial Army. Today their essential role is to act as constitutional monarchs in miniature. In all the counties of the United Kingdom, they are the Queen's representatives, performing the sort of ceremonial and social duties that the Queen performs at a higher level. They present BEMS, Queen's awards for export and technology, and awards to police and firemen.

They are much in demand for opening public institutions, presiding over charitable committees and attending functions in aid of good causes. They are expected to be on parade whenever a royal personage visits their county. A conscientious lord lieutenant may well have at least one local chore on every day of the week, including Sunday.

Not all, however, can be so readily available. For instance, it is hard to believe that Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who as well as being Lord Lieutenant of Kent is Governor of the Bank of England, can spare very much time for duties in the county. He must depend heavily on his vice lord lieutenant and deputy lieutenants. These lesser dignitaries are appointed by the lord lieutenant, but he himself is appointed by the Crown. There is no fixed term for a lieutenancy except, now, a retiring age of 75.

In the past, lords lieutenant were nearly always the leading territorial grandees in their respective counties, but times — and counties — have changed. There are still some lords lieutenant of the old sort, such as the Duke of Buccleuch (Roxburgh) or Lord Digby (Dorset). But there are also many who are neither noblemen nor large-scale landowners. In Merseyside is a businessman lord lieutenant in a recently created county.

Nevertheless, they are all of considerable standing in their counties, and many are public servants of high quality. But it is more or less obligatory for them to be well-off, because they receive no pay for their services. Apart from charging for secretarial help and transport, they have to finance the job themselves. In particular, they receive no allowance for entertaining,

which seems quite wrong. They are invited each year to one of the Queen's garden parties, and among prime ministers Lady Thatcher showed exceptional appreciation of their work by giving three receptions for them during her tenure. Although the government has specifically recognised the value of their work, by recommending that the lords lieutenant should be figureheads of the proposed non-administrative counties, they do seem to be exploited.

The system is a hangover from the time when there was a governing class which owned most of the land, paid hardly any tax and did a little public work partly in return for and partly to enforce its privileges. Another such hangover is the unpaid lay magistracy, and it is appropriate that lords lieutenant should have an important hand in the choice of lay magistrates.

None of the present lords lieutenant is a woman, and there is a marked paucity of women among vice lords lieutenants and deputy lieutenants. In some counties, indeed, there are none at all. One of the very few women lords lieutenant of recent times was Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk (West Sussex).

The Whiggish 11th Duke of Norfolk was sacked as lord lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire for proposing, during the French Revolution, a mast to "our sovereign's health — the majesty of the people". But it is most unusual for them to have radical leanings.

An exception during the present century was Sir Charles Trevelyan, who while serving as lord lieutenant of Northumberland was also a member of Stafford Cripps's far left Socialist League. At one meeting of Labour leaders he proposed that British workers should use strikes as a means of controlling British foreign policy, only to be crushed by this reform from Ernest Bevin: "You want a strike? OK, I am to call out 600,000 dockers. Will you call out the lords lieutenant?"

Wars in a fictional world

Bryan Appleyard ponders the cultural forces that drive the Booker prize

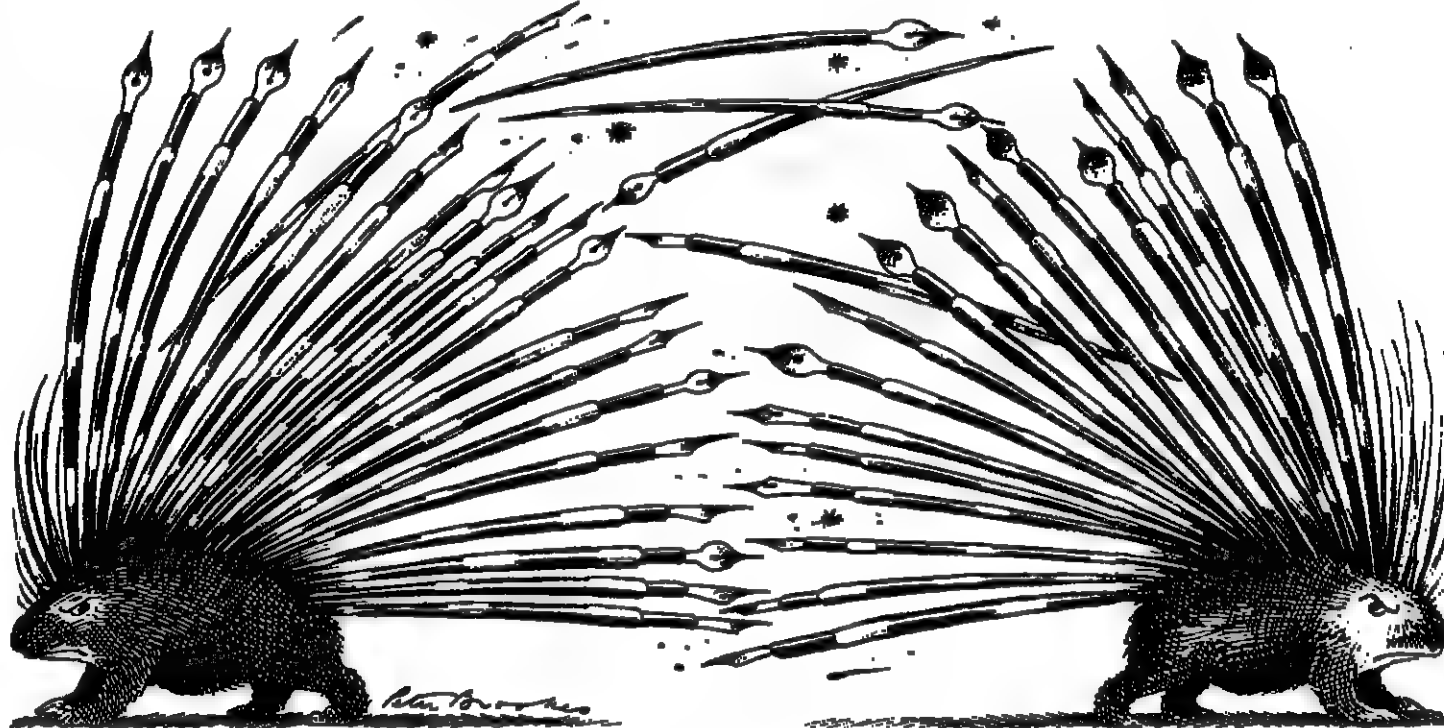
Considered as fiction, the Booker Prize — the shortlist is announced today — has entered a post-modern, mannerist phase. The ritual is overcast by a wilted, weary knowingsness. Or, of course, feverish hype — two probable shortlistees were separately described to me yesterday as "the greatest novel of the century", surely the desperation of decadence.

Few dream now of constructing theories about the condition of the novel on the basis of the shortlist. More likely it will inspire wry, acerbic asides about the condition of the recession-hit, frightened publishing industry. And when the first scene of Malcolm Bradbury's new novel *Doctor Criminal* is set at the Booker dinner, it is difficult to avoid the feeling that the prize is coming to the fin of its own private siècle. (*Doctor Criminal*, incidentally, has paid the price for this hubris: it is not shortlisted.)

The spectacle of Professor Bradbury brooding post-modernistically over this phase makes a certain sense, for he was, in a way, the godfather of the Booker's golden age. It was his courses at the University of East Anglia in the 1970s which convinced young writers that there was something badly wrong with the British post-war novel.

Bradbury taught that the prevailing convention of inward-looking, rather depressed realism — the legacy of the Angry Young Men and the Movement — was a betrayal of the highest, experimental ideals of modern literature. Aspiring writers emerging from the universities drunk on the literary exotics of Barthes, Beckett, Borges and Nabokov, tended to agree. The last thing they wanted to do was write more books about the amusing contradictions and solid virtues of provincial life.

So, from about 1978 onwards, a new generation emerged: Salman Rushdie, Julian Barnes, Ian McEwan, Peter Ackroyd, Martin Amis, Timothy Mo and so on. They played games with history, mangled chronology and imported new forms of the language. Luckily for them they also found themselves in the midst of the 1980s publishing boom, in which book sales grew particularly at the smarter end of the market, and the retail trade underwent a spectacular and highly effective revolution.



For a time, making a good living out of heavyweight novels seemed a serious possibility. The same forces drove the Booker. Who should win became an urgent conversational issue. And, of course, an urgent financial issue: the prize could drive hardback sales up from 2,000 to 80,000 and an author's advance for his next book from next to nothing up to £200,000.

So the prize, the post-moderns, the publishers and the bookshops marched hand in hand through the Eighties. Inevitably the recession has scattered the troops. Publishers are now so depressed about the state of their industry that one crosses the street to avoid their anguish. For all but the most established writers, the big advances have ended. This still leaves the post-moderns with solid earnings and big houses, but for now any aspiring next wave will have to remain pure in their garrets.

But is there a next wave? The answer is not yet, and that raises the further question of whether the Eighties' revitalisation of the novel,

upon which the Booker thrived, was a fluke, a mere blip on the graph of long term decline?

The most pessimistic view is that we are now reverting to our natural condition as a literary satellite of the United States. In financial terms, this cannot be disputed. There are many more Americans than there are Brits, and they seem to buy twice as many books per head (although the figure is disputed).

In publishing terms, America is the ultimate holding company of the English language, just as it now is of so many publishing houses. Aesthetically, the argument also seems to hold. We have our ageing literary gods — Muriel Spark, Iris Murdoch and William Golding — but, whatever the final judgment of posterity, they do not seem to have the vast, authoritative, patriarchal presence of John Updike or Saul Bellow. Has there been any literary event in post-war British fiction to compare with the appearance of the last of Updike's Rabbit trilogy, *Rabbit at Rest*? And can any British novelist-turned-prophet

expect to be heard with the weighty immediacy of Bellow? Murdoch deserves to be, but she isn't.

The unpalatable truth may be that we simply do not have a very literary culture. With the glorious and eccentric exception of *The Literary Review*, the world of the periodical is dead. And, because of that, there is no effective market for the short story. Few of our big name writers ever issue collections of stories. By contrast, Americans like Raymond Carver, Updike, John Cheever and Donald Barthelme have taken the form to extraordinary heights, with the heroic and dogged support of magazines such as *The New Yorker*. This is not a small matter. It is now all but impossible to imagine a new British writer with the peculiar combination of intimacy and devastatingly effective brevity of Cheever.

A literary culture requires neither academics nor a feverish metropolitan café society; it requires an audience of a certain size and seriousness. Perhaps the general American reader simply feels more

confident of the idea of literature and more comfortable with the idea of a great living writer. Outside the politically-correct campuses, there remains in America a strong, perhaps naïve feeling that literature is significant. And even if their writers do not generally make prime-time television, they are at least spared the insipid gloom of *The Late Show* or, worse still, the posturing silliness of *Burning Books*.

It was the scale of American cultural dominance, both in reality and in the British imagination, that helped to create the provincial introversion of the British novel of the 1950s. And to a large extent it was the ambitions of the American novel and, in the case of Nabokov, the honorary American novel that fired the rebellion of the 1980s.

Such a process suggests another inward phase and probably a few quiet years for the Booker. But of course, there is a Murphy's law of literary history, which says that even as this last sentence is being written, an unknown English Updike is probably booting up his word-processor.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Once, in the sweet lang syne, I had Turbary, Marl, Estover and Pannage. Not, as every Commoner knows, my firm of solicitors: firmer even than that, they were the law itself. In those days we owned a ramshackle New Forest gowdown, which was gone down to at weekends so that we could plod about relishing pastoral things, among which nothing was more pastoral than Turbary, Marl, Estover and Pannage.

They were Commoners' Rights, which attached to New Forest property and enfranchised the lucky holder to push a wheelbarrow out of his gate and bring it back again piled high with woodland. Turbary was the right to dig turf, Marl the right to dig clay, and Estover the right to gather fuel-wood. Pannage (aka Mast) was different, being the right to turn pigs out to root for acorns, and it remains a source of mortification to me that I was never able to exercise it, because I am a frugal man who has always hated the thought of acorns going to waste, and there is no other use for the acorn than putting it into a pig. But as we didn't own one — it was grim enough belting down the M3 every Friday night with a carload of moaningly deracinated infants determined not to know what was good for them, without having a pig on the back seat grunting about all the fun it was going to miss in London — my annual acorn catchment was infuriatingly left to rot.

But of Turbary, Marl and Estover I took full advantage.

Happy as a pig in Pannage, I would spend each weekend trundling the forest fruits back to my premises, landscaping banks of clay, turning them into rolling hummocks, and, when night fell upon my shored-up ligaments, lying before a crackling log fire, for there is nothing more satisfying to the countryman than that rich smoky aroma produced when flying fivers of blazing fagot meet recently flitted carpet.

Yesterday, this all came plangently back. Yesterday was when I decided to remove a bed of old roses from my Cricklewood lawn because they were not old roses any more, they were old sticks. I had given them one more year to produce something, but when the best their etiolated sap could squeeze out were a couple of pitiful excrescences which sprang into the world full-wisened and fell off the next day. I thought it kindest to put all of us out of our misery. This left me with a scar in the lawn four yards by three, and it seemed the most sensible course simply to turf it over.

It grew less sensible with every phone-call. I could find no garden centre prepared to deliver less than 100 square yards of the stuff, which, at £2.25 per sq yd, makes an old Commoner's scalp crinkle: once, I should merely have shouldered a shovel, arranged *Hi-ho, Hi-ho* upon my lips and marched into the forest to get it. Upon which thought, a second smartly followed: was Hampstead Heath not common land? What was there to stop me nipping up the road and chiselling a mere 12 sq yds

out of the available 4,000,000? Everything. After an hour of being brusquely fobbed from department to department, since that is bound to be the way it is with something which has chosen to call itself the London Residential Body, a plucky-kid *kapo* finally had his day made by being able to tell me that the Heath had ceased to be common land in 1870 and had been redesignated a Metropolitan Open Space, which meant that any unauthorised person pulling even a weed up would render himself liable to public hanging, his relatives being forbidden to reclaim the body until the crows had had a good go. Still, I persisted: knowing how blind one the law often turns to Heath activities more nefarious even than contraband turf-cutting, I rang Hampstead nick and said, look, we are both men of the world, would anyone really mind if I took 12 yards of turf off the Heath? But since all I heard was the unmistakable noise of a copper dropping senseless to the lino, I quickly rang off before the call could be traced.

Well, you can take the boy out of the forest, but you can't take the forest out of the boy. Since it is a matter of brandy for the parson and turfage for the back, I intend to be up there tonight with boot-lid raised and shovel swinging, and should any of the Heath's more typical nocturnal lawbreakers grow more than usually agitated in their busy undergrowth, my message to them is: Watch the wall, my darlings, while the Commoner runs by!

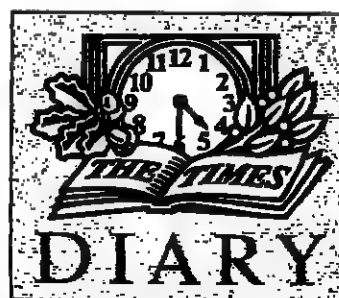
A jolly good read

VICTORIA GLENDINNING, who is chairing the Booker prize judges, must be praying for better luck than her recent predecessors. Of late the award has brought nothing but trouble for its judges, harsh reward for an onerous task conducted for scant reward. The final shortlist will be drawn up today, and Glendinning says: "I expect controversy at the meeting. The judges are brilliant, but they are all highly opinionated." At the first meeting one allegedly called another a "condescending bastard" — all part of the rich literary debate.

Her panel, which includes journalists John Goldstream and Mark Lawson, Harriet Harvey Wood of the British Council and Oxford academic Valentine Cunningham, has been meticulous in its reading of the 110 books which they have been ploughing through since April — some eight million words and over 400 hours reading. The judges were then asked to read again a "long shortlist" of 18 before arriving at the final six.

For a fee of just £2,500, it is a heavy workload. But suggestions that some of the novels have received only a cursory glance are taken as the height of bad taste. When on a live broadcast in 1983 Selina Scott asked Fay Weldon, who was chairing the judges, whether she had really read all the novels, Scott found herself virtually ostracised as a result.

Yet Glendinning knows there is still plenty of scope for trouble. Last year, one of the judges, Nicholas Mosley, resigned after failing to win support for his favoured books. Michael Foot, the 1989 chairman, was so convinced that his vote for



Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* would sway the panel that he had already written his presentation speech in praise of Rushdie. Instead he found himself in a minority of one.

Glendinning, who is currently touring the country promoting her biography of Trollope — itself a strong contender for the non-fiction NCR prize — says she has found the work rewarding. Another of her predecessors, the late A.J. Ayer, did not. The Oxford philosopher was so furious when he discovered how little he was being paid that he wrote in protest to the organisers: "I have just worked out that although I am a fairly fast reader, I pay my daily charwomen more than you pay me."

If the Duchess of York is embarrassed about her recent holiday snaps, the Earl of Lichfield, her mother-in-law's cousin, may be able to help. Lichfield, whose famous calendars suggest he knows a thing or two about photographing scantily clad ladies, is promoting a new compact-disc camera which allows owners to view and then alter holiday snaps through their television sets. The new technology permits the viewer to crop unwanted features from the photo. "You can even cut whole people out of the picture," says a spokeswoman. Now who on earth would want to do a thing like that?

In the pink

RED may have been declared politically incorrect at the newly moderate TUC, but yesterday Blackpool was full of delegates in all shades of fetching pink. Nothing to do with the gay pride movement, which has also hijacked the colour. Behind the pinking of organised labour was Margaret Prosser, chairperson of the TUC women's committee, who adopted the idea from a rally of striking women in Switzerland, to whom she had conveyed sororal greetings.

For yesterday's equality debate, Norman Willis, Rodney Bickerstaffe and John Monks all wore



pink ties, while Ken Gill sported a pink carnation. Brothers who looked as if they usually open beer bottles with their teeth donned pink shirts with foppish pink matching handkerchiefs. George Woodcock would surely have rather joined the class enemy.

Transport is often regarded as one of the gulags of cabinet government, and the former secretary of state Lord Parkinson admitted yesterday that he was filled with gloom when dispatched to the post

by Mrs Thatcher in succession to Paul Channon. "My office was grim and filthy, so on my first day I asked how we could brighten it up. I was told that my predecessor had found the room quite habitable once he had a hung a few of his Canaletto on the wall." Later in the lobby, an envious Parkinson asked Channon if it were true. "Yes," replied Channon, whose personal fortune could pay off a large chunk of the national debt. "But they aren't very good ones."

Sovereignty debate

SO HOW would Henry VIII have voted in the great Maastricht debate? Few doubt that he would have been a firm No, but controversy broke out yesterday over his six wives. According to Paul Johnson, the unfortunate creatures would have been equally divided. Introducing Lady Antonia Fraser and her new book *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* at the Foyles literary lunch, Johnson suggested that Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr would have been certain to vote against, while Catherine of Aragon and Anne of Cleves would have been firmly in favour. They would have been joined by Katherine Howard, he concluded, on the grounds that she found it difficult to say no to anything. Lady Antonia immediately took issue with his interpretation. "Anne Boleyn loved France. I think she would have voted yes to European unity," she insisted, claiming a four to two vote in favour of Maastricht.

From the Sellafield newsletter produced by BNFL and NIREX to promote plans for a new underground nuclear waste facility: "The repository project information unit is opening new premises bang in the middle of Whitehaven town centre". Literally? Quite possibly, says Greenpeace.



CAN THE CENTRE HOLD?

The only certainty about Monday's tragedy in Ciskei is that everybody predicted it. There is no excuse for the systematic firing by troops into a large crowd of demonstrators. But the African National Congress had been told what to expect and recklessly went ahead with what amounted to a suicide march. Just as the South African government has cynically used the homeland regimes as part of its "divide and rule" strategy, so the ANC has been goaded into ever more militant acts in its mass action programme. After such bloody incidents, blame is a cheap and plentiful commodity, and one that is rarely helpful to clear analysis.

South Africa's politics are at present in a state of suspended animation. Ever since the release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990, what is termed the negotiating phase of constitutional reform has been in progress. This phase was seen as the prelude first to an interim power-sharing government, and then to a new constitution based on a universal franchise with various entrenchments to protect human and group rights. Much debate has surrounded both the form of power-sharing and the basis of entrenchment. It has also surrounded the legitimacy of the black negotiators. The ANC has still been unable to develop a coherent and democratic national structure.

The negotiations in the Codrington House have been about realising power in a multiracial country. Those involved are thus inevitably looking over their shoulders to their own supporters, wary of signs of weakness, averse to compromise. President de Klerk, still one of the bravest and most canny of Africa's leaders, must keep his white voters in line. He must assure them that he is not capitulating or they will topple him. Unlike the ANC, he is democratically accountable at least within his group. He can sack recalcitrant police chiefs, as he did last week, but he must tread carefully.

For instance, he must apparently keep company with such unsavoury characters as

the Ciskeian leader, Brigadier Joshua Gqozo. The homeland bosses, wielding considerable patronage, could deliver as much as 10 per cent of the black vote against the ANC in a universal franchise. Psephological calculations suggest that this could be crucial. Hence Mr de Klerk's inability to desert or even denounce Mr Gqozo. The devious fabric of the homeland strategy could unravel.

Nor is the ANC in a happier state. Its senior figures are now being drawn ever closer into the informal embrace of government. They are consulted on important economic decisions. Patronage is moving their way. Their principal enemies, the Natal-based Inkatha movement and the PAC, are being excluded. But the result is to weaken their internal support. Nelson Mandela and Cyril Ramaphosa have been wrestling to keep their hardliners with them in the negotiations. That Mr Ramaphosa should have felt obliged to risk his neck on Monday's suicidal march shows the insecurity of his position.

The ANC hardliners seem in tacit alliance with the white far right. Mass protest is the hardliners' strategy: destabilise the state and seize power thereby. The police or homeland security forces can, it seems, be relied on to validate this strategy with atrocities that are internationally publicised. The longer the negotiations are protracted, the more the far right and the far left will tug their leaders away from the table and into the streets, and the harder will it be for Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela to resist that tugging.

The stature and leadership qualities of both men are now on the line. A kind of power-sharing is in place in South Africa, a sort of coalition exists. But like all coalitions it is vulnerable to splitting. Both sides to this coalition had their weaknesses exposed in Ciskei this week. They must get their supporters behind them at the negotiating table, and fast, whatever outrages occur in the meantime.

BEFRIENDING OLD ENEMIES

British trade unions have imported more from Germany than *Realpolitik*. By inviting the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry to address the Trades Union Congress's annual conference, they have admitted that more unites both sides of industry than divides them. The German concept of trade unions and management as "social partners" may now have crossed the North Sea.

British trade unions are living in a post-Marxist world. Marx's theory that capital and labour were natural adversaries and that the alienation of labour would eventually lead to the collapse of capitalism could not have been better disproved than by Howard Davies's speech yesterday. The TUC and CBI, he said, could work together constructively on increasing competitiveness, improving education and training and arguing for British interests in Brussels.

Ten years ago, it was given that the TUC would disagree with anything the CBI said and vice versa. Even the presence at a TUC conference of the director-general of the CBI — if not Lucifer himself, then his satrap — would have been unthinkable. What has changed so dramatically?

Conservative employment laws have helped to drag militant trade union leaders back towards the moderate centre occupied by most of their members. Meanwhile a larger proportion of workers does not even belong to a trade union and of those who do, more of them are highly skilled and well paid. But the main difference is that British workers have now suffered unemployment of two to three million twice in the space of a decade.

Like little children testing the limits of their parents' patience, British trade unions used to push and push at the corporate structure, safe in the belief that the edifice would never topple. If they could extract higher wages from their employers, it would be at the expense only of fat shareholders. The

company itself would not suffer and their jobs would not be at risk.

The twin recessions of the early 1980s and early 1990s have shown that one man's pay increase or strike is often the same man's lost job. Unions have recognised that what damages the prosperity of a company will also hurt the people it employs. The interests of employer and employee are inextricably linked.

If unions and employers have so much in common, is there still a need for a trade union movement? Simply because two sides have shared interests does not mean there is no scope for disagreement. On the micro level, employees will always need someone to represent them in dealings with their bosses. But the emphasis has moved from heel-digging opposition to negotiation. As one TUC leader told *The Times* recently, the days when union leaders boasted of strikes and battles with managers were over: they now take pride in the fact that strikes are so low.

Is all this the first sign of a new corporatism? One effect of government policies prolonging recession is that industry is becoming a new opposition to the government — perhaps more effective eventually than Her Majesty's loyal one. Even Mr Davies was yesterday calling for more public-sector infrastructure investment to boost the economy. If industry is threatened by recession, jobs are as much at risk as profits.

With businesses going bankrupt at a fearsome rate, trade unions could usefully join forces with employers in lobbying against government economic policy. The more unions loosen their ties with the Labour party and the more CBI members recognise that a Tory government does not necessarily act in their interests, the easier it will be for the two sides to come together. And together they could wield a formidable extra-parliamentary clout. Workers and managers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose, at all.

REDS VERSUS GREYS

The grey peril is out of control according to a survey published yesterday. The survey was compiled by the Forestry Commission and refers to squirrels rather than the grey-panther power of human oldies. Founded on a questionnaire sent to 2,300 private woodland owners, this is the widest squirrel poll conducted so far. It confirms the Cassandran eco-warnings of the past decade.

The advance of the grey squirrels continues inexorably. Since they were first introduced into Britain at Woburn Abbey a century ago, they have spread rapidly across the land. The native red squirrel has retreated and declined in numbers, because of (failure to adapt, a limited diet and habitat, disease and human traffic as well as the advance of the greys. Red squirrels are now confined to a few areas of northern England, North Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Wight, which even the pushy grey squirrels have not yet managed to invade, even in the hardest winters. Some specialists predict that the reds will disappear from England and Wales within the decade. Bark-stripping by the greys is estimated to cost the forestry industry £1 million a year. And the modern vision of recreational forests throughout the land is in danger of being spoiled by the monstrous regiment of teeming grey squirrels.

The native red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, has tufted ears, a chocolate coat in winter and a chestnut red coat in summer and eats pine cones. It has a shy, retiring nature, and prefers coniferous forests, where it spends most of its time up the trees. The grey, *Sciurus carolinensis*, weighs twice as much, is grey in winter and yellow-brown in summer, favours broadleaved woodland and

dines à la carte on anything from acorns to birds' eggs and the contents of dustbins. It strips the young bark off trees in spring because, like all rodents, it has to gnaw and relieve its aggression after the winter. It is prolific, unBritish and a serious pest.

Much cant is spread about this vermin. Townies, feeding them bread in the parks, are deceived by the cute creatures in cartoons. (Park-keepers now shoot them before dawn, to avoid frightening the tourists.) Beatrix Potter, with Squirrel Nutskin's twee riddle-me-rees, has much to answer for. Something must be done and that means population control and culling by efficient and humane killing. Trapping is labour-intensive and cruel, chemical repellents are expensive and dirty and shooting is inefficient. In the Fifties there was a system of paying a bounty on grey squirrel tails, which led to the folklore of greys being bred for the profit of a squirrel's most distinctive feature.

The most efficient and cost-effective method is Warfarin rat bane. There have been problems with smaller and threatened species, such as voles, field mice, dormice and red squirrels, taking the poison. Its use is banned in several English and Welsh counties and in Scotland. Warfarin should be allowed wherever grey squirrels have taken over. The Forestry Commission's sophisticated new trap that admits only grey squirrels to the poisoned bait, and is impervious to smaller animals, should be concentrated in the vulnerable border areas where grey squirrels are pushing back the reds. Not for nothing is the robust and pestilential grey squirrel known in its original homeland as the North American tree rat.

Journalists at risk in Turkey

From Dr Frances D'Souza and others

Sir, In the first eight months of 1992, seven journalists have been murdered in Turkey for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Many had been working for pro-Kurdish publications in southeast Turkey. Journalists in the region face constant harassment, beatings by the police and arbitrary detention.

The murder rate for journalists is the highest ever documented in Turkey in a single year and certainly the highest of any country in the world so far this year, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Turkey clearly ranks as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for the press.

Nevertheless, Turkey, a member of both Nato and the Council of Europe and an aspiring European Community partner, has not set up independent enquiries to bring those responsible for the murders to justice.

After nearly a year in office, the coalition government has failed to implement promised reforms, including legislation to protect freedom of expression. Meanwhile, journalists are paying the ultimate price for expressing their opinions.

September 9 has been declared a day of international action for press freedom in Turkey by the newly formed consortium of freedom of expression groups from Europe, Africa and the Americas (Ilex — International Freedom of Expression Exchange), the London-based members of which have signed this letter.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES D'SOUZA
(Director, Article 19
(International Centre
against Censorship)),
PHILIP SPENDER
(Director, Index on Censorship),
THOMAS VEGESACK
(President, Writers in Prison
Committee, International PEN),
Article 19,
90 Borough High Street, SE1,
September 7.

Streets with taste

From Mr John Mein

Sir, Marcus Binney ("Getting London streets ahead", August 29) underestimates the fact when he writes that "the procession routes to Buckingham Palace are the greatest letdown". I do not agree with his solution, though, of allocating famous London thoroughfares to well known architects for improvement, and harmonisation with adjoining areas.

Architects are in competition with each other, and we know all too well that when they make their bold statements in brick, stone and steel they can overlook human scale and values — until, that is, they return to their own homes: Richard Rogers to the white-suited elegance of Chelsea, Michael Manser to an 18th-century gem in Chiswick, etc.

No architects are not best suited to improve our procession routes, though it only requires someone with authority and taste to clear up the extraordinary mess in front of Buckingham Palace.

The hideous metal crowd-control barriers, the tacky wooden flagpoles along the Mall, the wartime breezeblock bunker on Horseguards, the crude colours of the flower beds in front of the palace could all so easily be improved to please the eye, and enhance our state occasions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MEIN,
Laitner House, Church Street, W4.

From Mr John H. Stafford-Moule
Sir, Marcus Binney writes that London's major thoroughfares are an architectural disgrace. I take no pleasure in nominating Old Kent Road as the most neglected of all routes: a historic road in and out of London for centuries, it brings shame on the capital.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN H. STAFFORD-MOULE,
6 Bishops Road, Somersham,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Cost of planning rules

From Mr P. J. S. Goward

Sir, Richard Bae, referring (letter, August 24) to the inhibiting effect on local planning authorities of the possibility of costs being awarded against them, ignores the effect of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, which has introduced a move away from the market-led system of the 1980s to a plan-led system.

It introduces a presumption in favour of a development which accords with updated local authority plans for particular areas. Developers seeking permission for a development not in accordance with these will have to show "material considerations" sufficient to justify a departure from them and may themselves be exposed to an award of costs if they cannot do so at the appeal stage.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. S. GOWARD
Drugs & Artific (Solicitors),
Salisbury House, London Wall, EC2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Putting A levels in the right league

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, The Master of Haileybury, Mr David Jewell (letter, September 4), illustrates by an example the large difference in ranking between the "Ucas points" and "percentage pass rate" approaches to judging A-level performance. He offers, however, no ground for the superiority of the latter: indeed under this system any school can improve its scores by encouraging pupils to take fewer subjects.

Consider a single pupil who takes four A levels, scoring A, B, C and F (fail). On the percentage pass-rate system (A-E) his score would be three out of four — i.e. 75 per cent; on the measure which Mr Jewell advocates (the percentage of A and B grades) his score would be two out of four — 50 per cent. If, on the other hand, his school had allowed him to take only his first two subjects, his scores on both Mr Jewell's chosen measures would have risen to 100 per cent. His Ucas points, however, would have rightly been lower in the second case.

While the Ucas points system has some weaknesses, any percentage-rate approach calculated against the number of exams taken, instead of the number of subjects sitting them, is simply ridiculous.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons,
September 8.

From Mr R. D. Macnaghten

Sir, What your A-level table (August 29) does not indicate is the correlation between the teaching ability of the staff and the intellectual ability of the taught.

Until you can find some method of relating the final examination results to the initial ability of the candidates, your tables will remain as good an indication of the academic quality of a school as one comparing the number of runs scored by different schools would be of their athletic skills.

Yours sincerely,
R. D. MACNAGHTEN
(Headmaster of Sherborne,
1974-88), Prospect House,
Tisbury, Wiltshire,
August 31.

From the Principal of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge

Sir, With the government committed to increasing the number of students in post-16 education and training, those state schools and colleges which

are responding vigorously to this challenge could find themselves disadvantaged by your national league table.

This year we entered 400 students for A level, compared with 229 five years ago. As a result, we have been able to offer opportunities to a new cohort of students, for some of whom a modest pass grade is a considerable achievement.

Not surprisingly, our average Ucas score has shown a gentle decline, although our best-performing 229 students would still achieve a prominent place in your table. I am sure that many other state schools and colleges could provide similar examples.

Provided that high expectations are maintained and careful forward planning undertaken, our experience persuades me that educational excellence and expansion of opportunities are fully compatible. I therefore hope that the government will consider carefully the methodology of its own league tables, to be published in November.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN GREENHALGH,
Principal,
Hills Road Sixth Form College,
Cambridge,
September 7.

From Mr Desmond Devitt

Sir, David Jewell has rightly judged the significance of league tables as merely providing "some amusement over the breakfast table". Such things are nothing new, however.

My father's 1924 *Letts Schoolboys' Diary* reveals a table featuring no fewer than 80 public schools. Mr Jewell's predecessor may or may not have felt that "appropriate criteria for comparison" had been selected, in that the table revealed only one dimension: that of the schools' athletic records. For instance, Eton's record for throwing the cricket ball (132yds eclipsed that of Haileybury by 24yds 1in, while Brighton College (42ft 2in at putting the weight) massively out-put Eton (37ft 6in).

Headmasters may be relieved to hear that, from my experience over the past year, their future customers weigh up which wealth-shattering school to opt for without paying much attention to league tables. These have their rightful place at the breakfast table and in schoolboy diaries.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND DEVITT,
Housemaster, Dragon School,
Bardwell Road, Oxford,
September 5.

Sterling speculation

From Mr Leonard A. Jackson

Sir, Mr Paul N. Arthur (letter, September 3) writes that "over 85 per cent of demand and supply (of sterling) is speculative rather than trade-related". If correct, the 85 per cent must surely include routine switching of vast sums by the institutions (pension funds and insurance groups) to high-interest centres to provide higher pensions and larger premiums and, one supposes, large support transactions of central banks.

Neither could be described as purely speculative. How much is genuine currency speculation?

Despite Mr Arthur's wish to abolish the European monetary system, its offspring, the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), has served Europe well. It has monitored and helped to reduce inflation. Its members are bound to intervene to purchase an ERM currency on its floor, thus nipping in the

bud a speculator's aim of forcing the currency down and buying it back at a lower rate. It is a safeguard against speculation within the EC. Britain needs this protection.

Mr Arthur's remedy that governments should individually aim at rates of exchange which would minimise their own trade imbalances seems to me a recipe for maximum instability, and unworkable, since trade-related flows would continue to be swamped by the larger non-trade flows.

We can only work in and through the market systems and — with no wish to score debating points — I see no way in which the smaller volume of trade-related transactions can by itself determine rates of exchange.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
L. A. JACKSON,
Stable Cottage, Speldhurst Road,
Langton Green, Kent,
September 5.

Business letters, page 21

Police performance

From the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers

Sir, I detect a touch of irony in Howard Davies's report on how the police service should be run. "Fighting Leviathan: Building social markets that work" (details, September 2).

He is director general of the Confederation of British Industry and it is his own members who currently plead, as the police service has done for so long and for so often, for government intervention in their market. Whether it is cutting interest rates or cutting crime rates, we all have to accept that there are no simple, quick fix, low-cost solutions. Policing for profit, whether it is traffic law enforcement or crowd control, does not rest easy with the majority of the British public.

The Audit Commission reports published by Mr Davies when he was controller (leading article, "The police inspected", September 2) were invariably reports of good practice already taking place within the service. To suggest that the police service shows

"all the characteristics of a badly designed system" begs the question, what was it designed for, if not a locally based, flexible and accountable system of policing? Is this not the service the public wants?

It is disappointing that your leader skirts over the important area of the performance indicators the police service is endeavouring to develop with the Audit Commission. Even in Mr Davies's time, the commission was one of the first to acknowledge what a difficult and complex service this is to measure. Instead you concentrate on a discredited notion that the police are dismissive of emergency calls.

Survey after survey has demonstrated that at the present time over three quarters of the public are highly satisfied with the service we provide. We are working on improving that figure.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN JOHNSON, President,
Association of Chief
Police Officers,
Lancashire Constabulary
Headquarters,
Hutton, Preston, Lancashire.

Bail hostel fears

From Mrs M. K. Fielder

Sir, I strongly refute the allegations of the director of administration, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (report, August 25), that the Greater Manchester Probation Committee has acted in an "underhand and deceitful manner", misleading the local authority as to the intended use of a former hotel in that area as a bail hostel.

The committee provided the planning department of the local authority with detailed information about its proposal on December 17, 1991, and did not proceed with purchase and

renovation until it had received a favourable planning determination. That determination, received on February 6, 1992, has recently been reconfirmed by the borough council.

The committee is confident that the anxieties of the local community will prove unfounded when the hostel opens. Experience of managing six other similar posts in the area over the years confirms this belief.

Yours faithfully,
M. K. FIELDER
(Assistant Chief Probation Officer),
Greater Manchester
Probation Service,
Oakland House,
Talbot Road, Manchester 16.

Children's right of entry to UK

From Ms Wendy Ayotte and others

Sir, We and 11 other colleagues from concerned organisations have written to the governments of 14 European countries calling on them to urge the UK government to withdraw a reservation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This reservation exempts the UK from implementing articles pertaining to immigration and nationality. We believe it is incompatible with the purpose of the convention, and that the issue is very relevant to the current situation of children separated from their families in what was Yugoslavia.

The reservation will affect the implementation of several articles, three of which are considered to be essential to the convention.

Article 3 of the convention stipulates that "in all actions concerning children... the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration"; yet nowhere does UK immigration law take into account the welfare of children. Without such a welfare principle the interests of children come a poor second to the immigration quotas.

Article 2 provides that all the rights in the convention apply to all children: yet children born in the UK to unmarried parents cannot acquire British nationality through the father. Children and families in the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean applying for family reunion in the UK encounter a host of discriminatory rules and practices which keep children separated from their families for long periods or deny family reunion altogether.

Contrary to Article 12 on a child's right to be heard, refugee children are treated like adults in the UK refugee-determination process and are thus denied a proper opportunity to express their views and wishes.

The UK reservation will maintain discriminatory practices which fall heavily on children from minority communities within the UK. This should no longer be tolerated.

Sincerely,
WENDY AYOTTE
(Children's Legal Centre),
GERISON LANDSDOWNE
(Children's Rights Development Unit),
IAN WHITE (Association of Directors of Social Services),
CLAUDE MORAES (Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants),
KEN RITCHIE (Refugee Council),
ORIOLE GOLDSMITH
(Save the Children Fund),
The Children's Legal Centre,
20 Compton Terrace, N1,
September 7.

Gower rejection

From Mr Ray Mills

Sir, The ingenuity displayed over the years by the England selectors in finding excuses for dumping David Gower (report, September 8) is quite remarkable. The latest, that at 35 he is too old to play against India but six months later he may be young enough to play against Australia, must rate as one of the more ingenious.

Yours faithfully,
RAY MILLS,
4 Dane Drive,
Cambridge,
September 8.

From Mrs Christine Heald

Sir, As I pulled my son's David Gower cricket trousers out of the washing machine, I reflected on the endless hours of pleasure one of England's greatest batsmen has given us all over the years.

Gower's style, elegance and flair are unparalleled. He will outlast the present England selectors — of that I'm sure — and will return to his rightful place in the England side, preferably under a new team of selectors.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE HEALD,
10 Hitherwood Drive, SE19,
September 8.

Fischer match

From Mr Dan E. Mayers

Sir, Referring to your report (September 2) of Bobby Fischer pretending to spit on the official letter threatening him with imprisonment and fines for breaking the sanctions imposed on Serbia, whoever wrote that letter should be congratulated: nothing was more likely to ensure that Fischer would actually go through with the match than these official fulminations against it.

Respectfully yours,
DAN E. MAYERS
(US Chess Federation),
Loth Lorian Arboretum,
Wadhurst,
East Sussex,
September 2.

Black mark for TUC?

From Mr Michael Donley

Sir, I see from today's front-page report that the TUC is attempting to be politically "correct" and avoid such words as "blackleg" and "blacklisted". Why are they meeting in Blackpool?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DONLEY,
72 Woodstock Road,
Witney, Oxfordshire,
September 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 8: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel John Goodier on relinquishing command of 9 Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Lawless on assuming command.

Guidelines on Environmental Performance Measures.
The Princess of Wales this morning visited the London Connection project for young homeless people at 12 Adelaide Street, London WC2.
Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, British Youth Opera, this evening attended a performance of *Carmina* at Saddler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1.
Mrs Max Pike and Captain Edward Musto, RM, were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr R.B. Adams, former managing director, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 71; Mr Michael Aldridge, actor, 72; Miss Pauline Baynes, book illustrator, 70; Sir Tom Cowie, company chairman, 70; Mr John Curry, ice skater, 43; Professor A.T. Florence, dean, London University School of Pharmacy, 62; Sir John Gordon, CH, former Prime Minister of Australia, 81; Mr Robin Hyman, publisher, 81; Sir John Lowbridge, former MP,

67; Sir Peter Macdonald, former chairman, BAT Industries, 71; Viscount Macdonald of Halifax, 34; Mr Steve O'Shaughnessy, cricketer, 31; Sir Anthony Parsons, diplomat, 70; the Rev Professor N.W. Porteous, theologian and linguist, 94; Mr James Sabin-Chase, headmaster, Winchester College, 51; Mr Richard Sharpe, rugby player, 54; Countess Spencer, 63; Miss Marie Steele, bowler, 64; Mr Dave Stewart, singer and producer, 40; Dr the Hon Shirley Summersell, author, 61; Mr Chaim Topol, actor, 57; Miss Margaret Tyack, actress, 61; Mr Ed Victor, 53; Air Commodore R.H.G. Weighill, 72.



Admiral Lord Nelson, perched high above Trafalgar Square, London, stoically suffering his annual inspection when workmen remove from his trappings of office all trace of his feral friends

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.O. Chapman and Miss J.A. Crowther.
The engagement is announced between Maria, only son of Mr and Mrs Henry Chapman, of Telford, Shropshire, and Jenny, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Crowther, of Hindley Green, Lancashire.

Mr J.M.L. Collis and Miss L.S.C. Chaudhry.
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr N. Collis, of Malvern, and Miss J. Chaudhry, of Penryn, Cornwall.

Mr J.B. Cooper and Miss H.M.C. Stapleton.
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, second son of Mr and Mrs D.B. Cooper, of Lepton, Huddersfield, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Stapleton, of Carlisle and Miss Henry Stapleton.

Mr H.G.M. Greenfield and Miss S.C. Andrews.
The engagement is announced between Hugo, son of Mr Gerard Morgan-Greenfield, of Normandy, France, and Miss S.C. Andrews, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.W. Andrews, of Llandrindog, Tenby, Wales, West Wales.

Mr J.G. Le Couillard and Miss C.E. Richards.
The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr and Mrs Francis Le Couillard, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Richards, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.R. Neville and Miss J.A. Davies.
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Neville, of Ivy Hatch, Kent, and Tracy-Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Michael Davies, of Swansea.

Mr H. Overgaard Nielsen and Miss S.R. Biers.
The engagement is announced between Henrik, son of the late Mr Poul and Mrs Grete Overgaard Nielsen, of Copenhagen, and Sharon Ruth, daughter of the late Dr Joshua Biers, of Hampstead, and the late Mrs Dora Dorehill, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr S.P. Tyler and Miss S.E. Shaw.
The engagement is announced between Stephen Paul, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Tyler, and Susy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Shaw, of Sydney, Australia.

Service dinner
Ministry of Defence Group Captain S.B. Burdett and officers of the Ministry of Defence Support Management branch for the European Fighter Aircraft held a dinner last night at RAF Bentley Priory. Air Chief Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, Air Member for Support, and Mr J. Burdett, were the principal guests. Among other present were Air Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, Chief of Logistics Support for the RAF, and the National Directors of Engineering of the German, Italian and Spanish Air Forces.

Marriages

Mr G.H. Davies and Miss A.J. Greville.
The marriage took place on Sunday, August 30, at Market Street Baptist Church, Nantwich, of Mr Gareth Davies, son of the Rev R.I. and Mrs Barbara Davies, of Nantwich, Cheshire, and Miss Alison Greville, daughter of the late Mrs Gillian Greville and of Mr Richard Greville, of Newnham, Devon. The Rev Robin Davies officiated.

Mr J.C. Denton and Miss J.E. Vernon.
The marriage took place at All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea, on Saturday, September 5, of Mr Jonathan Denton, son of the late Mr John Denton and of Mrs Denton, of Spaxton, Somerset, to Miss Julia Vernon, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Vernon, The Rev Alastair Dunn officiated and the anthems were sung by Hordle House chorists.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily and Alexander Rhind, Hannah Kaye and Ben Gubbins. Mr Michael Lines was best man.

The reception was at Hordle House and the toast to the bride and groom was given by Sir David Checketts. The honeymoon is being spent in Canada.

Mr R.E. Pearce and Miss S.F.J. Nash.
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, at St Mary's Church, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, of Mr Rupert Pearce to Miss Sarah Nash. The bride, who was given in

marriage by her brother, Mr William Nash, was attended by Miss Sarah Fordy and Harriet Nash. Mr Oliver Pearce was best man.

The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Africa.

Mr J.J. Siew and Miss K.G. Griffin.
The marriage took place on September 5, at St Matthew's Church, London, W14, between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Siew, of Farnham Drive, Redhill, Surrey, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Griffin, of Greenfield Road, Perranwell, Cornwall.

Mr J.B. Stanley and Miss F. McMillan.
The marriage took place on Thursday, August 27, in London, between John Bernard Stanley and Fiona McMillan.

Reception
Royal Overseas League
Mr Henry Myrie Hughes, Head of Fine Arts at the British Council, presented the prize at a reception held yesterday at Overseas House, St James's, to mark the opening of the 1992 Royal Overseas League annual exhibition. Mr Peter McEntee, chairman of the league, received the guests.

Chigwell School
Michaelmas Term at Chigwell School started yesterday and ends on Tuesday, December 15. The Head of School is James Anderson (Lambourne) and the Captain of Soccer is Ade Adetola (Swallow). The House Music Festival will be held on Thursday, October 22 and the Advent Service at St Mary's Church is on Sunday, December 13. The School will hold an Open Meeting for parents of prospective pupils on Saturday, October 10, and an Open Meeting for parents of prospective Sixth Formers on Tuesday, October 13. Further information may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary.

Church of the Holy Trinity
Michaelmas Term begins on Wednesday, September 9. Caroline Pilling and Ben Harper are Captains of College. Speech Day is to be held on Friday, October 23, when Colonel T. Moorthy will be the guest speaker. Half-term is from October 24 to November 1 and the Old Boys' Club Dinner will be held on November 28, following the OCC v 1st XV Rugby Match. Term ends on December 17, after the Carol Service at St Peter's Church.

City of London School for Girls
Autumn Term begins today. Anne Hunningher is Head Girl and Zoe Woolfson Deputy Head Girl. Open days for parents of prospective pupils are on Tuesday, October 6 and Wednesday, November 18. An evening for those interested in joining our Sixth Form will be held on Wednesday, October 14. Further details are available from the School Office. The Carol Service will be on Thursday, September 17 and the Friends of CLSG will hold their AGM on Monday, October 23. Prize Day is on Friday, October 23. In the Barbican Hall. Term ends on Wednesday, December 16, after a Carol Service in St Peter's Church. The new Headmistress, Mrs Richard Youdale, will be installed as a member of the Cathedral Foundation on Sunday, September 13. The Scholars' Dedication and Visitor's Feast will take place on Friday, November 20. The President of the Service will be the Lord Prior. The Very Rev Michael Higgins. The Senior School Drama Production, *Oh, What a Lovely War* will be staged in the Haymarket Theatre on December 10, 11 and 12. The Old Elean Winter Reunion AGM and Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 17.

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King's Grammar School
Term begins today at Kingston Grammar School with Simon Burnester as School Captain, and Naomi Ward Vice Captain. Open Evening will take place on Wednesday, October 14, from 6.30pm. The School Concert will be on Friday, September 12, and on Saturday, September 13, and on Sunday, September 14, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. The Old King's annual dinner will take place at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall at 7.30pm on Friday, November 20. An appeal to refurbish the Lovelock Chapel will be launched on Tuesday, October 20, at 7.30pm. The musical *Guys and Dolls* will be performed in Hall on December 10, 11 and 12. The Carol Service will be held on December 17, at 8pm in St Peter's and term ends on Friday, December 18.

Leeds Grammar School
Michaelmas Term begins on September 9, with David Galt as Head of School and Philip Tate as his Deputy. Peter Dunn has been named as Third Master. Peter Galt has become Director of Development and is succeeded as Head of Junior School by John Davies. Open Morning is Saturday, October 10; Speech Day is November 10. The Old Leas dinner will be on Friday, October 9, in Leeds and on Friday, March 5, in London.

Monksford Preparatory School
The Autumn Term begins at Monksford Preparatory School today. Oliver Day is Head Boy and Thomas Wigley Captain of Soccer. The Entrance Assessment will take place on Saturday, November 7. The Junior and Senior Carol Services will be held on Wednesday, December 16.

takes up his appointment as Senior Master, Mr Ralph Cole as Senior Housemaster, Mr Kenneth Durham as Director of Studies, and Mr Duncan Weir as Housemaster of Layton. Mr Paul Guinness joins the Common Room as Head of Geography upon the retirement of Mr Colin Evans. The Captain of School is James Scott and the Vice Captain is Harry Boycott. The Captain of Rugby is Alexander Law. *Julius Caesar* will be performed in the Hall from November 26-28, and *Pirandello's Man, Beast and Virtue* from December 10-12. The Chamber Choir Tour of Northern France will take place at half term and the Christmas Choral Concert in St Martin-in-the-Fields on December 12. The Boat Club dinner is on December 4 and the Rugby Club dinner on December 10. The Gaudy for Old Boys who left in the 1950s is on September 25. Any Old Boy with contact details should contact the OCB at the School. The Old Boys' dinner will take place on November 27 at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. Term ends on the Carol Service in Guildford Cathedral on December 18.

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North London Collegiate School
Term begins today. There are 918 pupils in school with 213 in the sixth form. Work on the new swimming pool is in progress and should be completed in the spring. Old North Londoners who were at school in the 1970s are invited to lunch on Saturday, September 14. Other Old North Londoners are invited for the afternoon when the school versus Old North Londoner matches and the grounds and buildings are open for families to view before tea. Tickets for both events from Cheryl Pack, telephone: 081 449 8449.

Prior's Field School
Term starts today. Aulia Khan is Head Girl and Vanessa Whicker is Deputy. Term ends with the Carol Service in Charterhouse Chapel at 10.00pm on December 9, followed by a Christmas Fair at School. Old Girls Day will be on Saturday, May 8. Applications for Sixth Form entry and Scholarships for 1993 should be addressed to the Registrar, before the end of December 13.

Royal Grammar School, Guildford
Michaelmas term at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford begins today and ends on December 16. The School Captain is David Harris. Daniel McRobbie is Captain of Rugby. Speech Day is on September 25. The Right Hon Lord Prior, PC, will be the guest of honour. The Junior Priestgiving will be on October 9, the Guildford Sinfonia concert on December 3, the Oxford OG Dinner at Merton on November 13 and the Past v Present rugby match at Bradstone Brook on December 19.

The Royal School, Bath
Autumn Term begins today, and will end after the final Carol Service on Sunday, December 13. Mr Peter Fomela-Osborne has taken up his post as Finance Director. Paddy Osborn is Head of School and Karen Kirby Deputy Head. The Royal School Association will hold its Annual Reunion at the School on Saturday, September 19, when the water garden in memory of Miss Harding will be opened. The Headmistress will be visiting parents in Hong Kong from October 10-13. Senior Prize Giving will take place in the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Friday, October 23.

St David's School for Girls, Ashford, Middlesex
Autumn Term begins today and ends on December 16. Half-term will be on October 23 to November 2. The Sixth Form Consortium with Hillfield Boys' School enters its seventh year. Congratulations to Head Girls Sara Lufford-Watts and Caroline Marley. Speech Day will be on Thursday, November 12, when the guest speaker will be Mrs Anne Sebbins.

St Edward's School, Oxford
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On October 5 there will be a pre-premiere performance of *Wuthering Heights* to which ONE and friends of the School are invited. Tickets are available from the School. The Scholarship examination and general assessment for Lower Sixth and boy entry takes place at the School on November 6 and 7. Term ends on December 12.

Saint Felix School, Southwold, Suffolk
The Autumn Term begins today, with Sarah Clark and Victoria Heimer as Joint Heads of School. Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations will be held on October 12. The OF Annual Luncheon will be held in Cambridge on October 17. There will be a "1993 Registrars' Weekend" from November 6-8 (details from The Registrar). The School Play, *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be performed on November 26, 27 and 28 and the Junior Drama Play *Mad About What You Will* on December 11 and 12. The Carol Services will be held on Wednesday, December 16 and term ends on December 13.

Sonnyhurst College
Christmas Term commences today with the Ascension Scholar and Mass for the Dedication of Studies. Oliver Wright is Head of the Line and Richard Joseph is Second Head. Lower Grammar Examinations will be held on October 3 and 4 and the Half Term Break is October 17 to 25. Grammar Parents' Week ends on November 21 and 22. December 1 is the Feast of St Edmund. Campus SJ and the Carol Service is December 13.

Truro School
Michaelmas Term at Truro School begins today and Mr J.R. Heath succeeds Professor J.C. Dancy as Chairman of the Governors. It is with regret the school announces the early retirement through ill-health of Mr B.K. Hobbs, the Headmaster. Mr B. Jackson is Acting Headmaster pending a new appointment. Mr J.D. Scott is Head of English following the retirement of Mr W.E. Weeks. Half-term is from October 24 to November 1, the Carol Service is December 13 and term ends December 17.

Warminster School
The Michaelmas Term begins today and will end with the Carol Service on December 17. Mr Philip Cates takes up his appointment as Second Master, and Mrs Mary Henderson joins the staff to teach Modern Languages. Leigh Austin and Helen Beaman are Heads of School. A sponsored march will take place on the theme of "Children for Children", will be held on September 17, and OV Day and AGM will be held on Saturday, September 10, 1992.

Westminster Abbey Choir School
Full term started on September 7. The Head Chorister is Alastair Brookshaw, the Second Chorister is Simon de Baat and the Head of School is Thomas Ballwill. The new foundation chorists are: Christian Wilson, Richard Silver, Stephen Braiser, Thomas Sneddon, Peter Castle and Alexander Martin. On September 20, the Choir will leave for a three-week tour of America, finishing at Lincoln Center on October 11. The Howells Chamberlain, there will be a performance of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* on November 14. Commemoration Concert will take place on November 28 and the Carol Services on December 6. The School Play is *Richard II* by William Shakespeare and will be performed on December 3, 4, and

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Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

But Sam went from strength to strength, and confounded the Jews of Damascus with his constant sermons that Jesus was the Messiah.
Acts of the Apostles 9:22-23

BIRTHS

ADDISON - On August 23rd, Catherine Jane (Vivienne) and Daniel Michael (Vivienne) John Meyers.

BENTLEY - On September 8th at St Thomas' Hospital, London, a son, Charles John Douglas, a daughter, Frederica.

DELOMBE - On September 1st, at Masefield Park Hospital, Taunton, to Rhonda Jane and Richard A. de Lombé, a son, Sebastian, a daughter, Rita Annabel.

BILBOUGH - September 4th, in Victoria, to Christopher and Christine, a daughter, Rita Annabel.

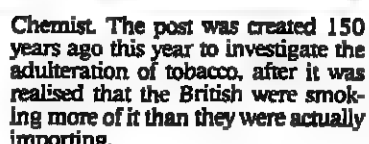
BROTHERTON-HATFIELD - On Saturday September 6th, 1992, to Thalia and Anthony, a son.

BULLARD - On September 7th, to Amanda and Sam a still born baby, Plessie, a daughter, Carter.

CAVE - On September 2nd, in Exeter, to Julianne Jane and William, a daughter, a second son Alexander Peter.

DAVID LEWIS

Lewis first became involved in defence work during the war when he worked as a "back room boy" at the Ministry of Supply's Armaments Research Establishment, first in Woolwich then in Wales. In 1945,



After 20 years dealing with armaments, however, he left Aldermaston in 1960 for something completely different — as the Government

By David Lewis's time, however, it had accumulated a wide range of responsibilities for research and anal-

On retirement from the government laboratory, "DT" (he was sometimes known by his initials) was made an honorary professorial fellow at Aberystwyth, where he returned to lecture from time to time. He gave the Dawes Memorial Lecture in 1965, was made a scientific governor of the British Nutrition Foundation in 1967 and served as a member of the British National Committee for Chemistry (Royal Society). 1961-70.

David Lewis is survived by his second wife Mary and by the daughter of a previous marriage.

He became obsessed with the notion of conspiracies of well-fed but inferior writers deliberately doing down gifted ones. On occasion he could become monotonous when enlarging on this theme and



stress and disappointment had proved too overwhelming. Yet there is little doubt that he would have succeeded, both in maintaining his literary integrity and in making a living. *A Dance for the Moon* alone has the status of a minor classic.

GEN JAMES ALLEN

He landed the *Blue Peter* presenter's job against keen opposition. It was said that he was selected because he shared a passion for model electric railways with the programme's original producer, John Hunter Blair, a bookish bachelor, who kept a working track layout in his office. Biddy Baxter, Hunter Blair's successor, noted: "He (Trace) spent his entire interview playing trains with John."

Christopher Trace, who was to remain with the programme for nine years pre-



This left Trace holding the fort on his own in a show that was starved of money, the budget being at the time £180 a programme. While his model-making and relaxed game-playing kept the young audience loyally watching during this difficult period, the new producer Biddy Baxter was able to win more support for the show from the BBC hierarchy. Valerie Singleton teamed up with Trace in 1962. He had long discarded

In 1967 Trace and Singleton were joined by a third presenter, the energetic John Noakes, who rapidly built a huge following of his own. Producer Biddy Baxter was of the opinion that Trace resembled Noakes's success and that this was one of the chief reasons for him quitting *Blue Peter*. However, there was certainly another. Trace besmirched his Uncle Chris image by having an affair with a teenage Norwegian girl he met while on a *Blue Peter* assignment. This led to the break-up of his marriage.

At a bankruptcy hearing in 1973 Trace disclosed debts of more than £16,000. Towards the end he was living alone in a two-bedroom flat in Walthamstow, East London, his only income deriving from national assistance.

Two days before he died he was reminiscing about the old days with his former *Blue Peter* co-presenter, Valerie Singleton.

Christopher Trace was twice married: he had a son and daughter.

were fit enough for work. Most American prisoners were held in the "Hanoi Hilton" and intelligence experts believed that those taken to Son Tay had been badly tortured, and had been removed to avoid their being seen by delegations of peace activists. A more ambitious scheme now seemed necessary.

With the approval of President Nixon, Allen constructed a model of the prison camp in Florida and supervised en-

chief of staff. In 1977 he was invited by General Alexander Haig, then Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, to become chief of staff at his Mons headquarters. The move brought promotion to four-star general, and two years later Allen was promoted to the post of Deputy C-in-C, US European Command. His last assignment before his retirement in 1983 was as C-in-C Military Airlift Command.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

James (Jimmy) Irvine Crockett, MBE, MC, who has died aged 78, began his distinguished career in property consultancy in London in 1937 when he qualified as an associate of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 and served for six years with the Royal Artillery in Africa and Italy where, as a captain, he was awarded the Military Cross.

He moved to Australia with his family in 1956 and found-

James Crockett was appointed MBE in 1982 for services to his profession, the scouting movement and to the Salvation Army.

That the London & South-Western Railway changed its rules speaks well for the influence of the paper's letter column. Well into the twentieth century women had to find a venue in public conveyances

To the Editor of The Times
Sir, — I willingly add my
testimony to that of others hav-

ing snatched again from the slot system. After a train has not arrived for an hour or two you arrive at the door of the ladies waiting-room and find you have only halfpence and silver in your possession. Whilst you are trying to get change from the flurried attendant the whistle of your train sounds, and you must either lose it or suffer frightfully for another hour or two. I have also to mention that if a bag or umbrella is left behind in the hurry you must pay another penny to get it — at least so I was told. I was told also by the woman, who said each time the door was opened a penny had to be paid by herself if not by you. I have long felt this system to be "cruelty to animals" in ways which cannot be expressed in a public paper.

Yours faithfully,
ONE WHO HAS
SUFFERED MUCH.

Though the subject is one which must be discussed with reserve, we need offer no apology for commenting on the correspondence headed "A Woman's Complaint" which has lately been appearing in our columns. "A Woman's Complaint" is simply this. Many railway companies are applying the penny slot system to the conveniences provided in retiring rooms for women at their stations. As a result of this ingenious device, which, if women were allowed to serve as railway directors would

never have been adopted, a woman passenger may be compelled to endure gross suffering, and possibly to incur permanent injury, in circumstances which must constantly arise, she happens to have no penny in her purse. It is more or less an injustice that, even where the penny slot machine has not been introduced, a woman passenger should be obliged to travel without a fee accommodation which is gratuitously afforded to men. A charge for personal attendance, however, is at least partially defensible on grounds which will readily suggest themselves, and it is possible for the railway company to keep the attendance provided with a small charge. But the penny slot has no advantages. It does not insure cleanliness — quite the contrary, as our correspondents assure us. It gives no change; it will not always open for a penny; and it will not open for anything else. It is even more unjust than the penny slot. Unless the penny slot be forthcoming, it makes no sort of allowance, even for the most urgent necessity. It is, in fact, an abomination and on behalf of a fair moiety of its passengers we unhesitatingly call upon the railway companies which have adopted the slot in this particular application to put an end to it.

We cannot but commend the courage and good sense of the correspondent who first raised the complaint. The letters we have published, and the large number we have received, have shown beyond all doubt that the grievance is serious and widely felt.

No one will accuse English women of crying out in such a manner without good cause. We are gratified to learn that the discussion of the grievance in our columns has already borne fruit. The manager of the London and South-Western Railway has written to us to say that a perusal of the letters which we have published has satisfied him of the reality of the hardship inflicted upon women by the present system, and he undertakes to have it remedied.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit University Hospital, Nottingham, at 11.15.

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will attend the Partnership Approach to Economic Regeneration conference at the Nottingham City Centre, 100, Broad Street, Nottingham, at 1.30; and, as President of the Prince's Trust and the Prince's Youth Business Trust, will meet grant and loan recipients from the trusts at the Arts Centre, Nottingham University, at 2.10.

The Prince and Princess, as President of Barnardo's, will visit the Greenfield Centre, Russell Road, Nottingham, at 12.20; as Patron of Help the Aged, will visit the Health Advice Centre, Lower Parliament Street, at 1.20; and will visit Birkin, Bains Drive, Rartsworth, Derbyshire, at 2.15.

The Princess Royal, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots, will visit the 2nd Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers, at Napier Barracks, Folkestone, at 10.25.

The Duke of Kent will visit the Farnborough International Airshow '92 at 10.30.

The Duchess of Kent will open Carlton Lodge youth centre, Thurston, at 11.45; and will perform at the Christmas concert of the New Forest, Class Lifeboat, RNLI at 12.45.

Ann Victoria Wilson and Frank Stubbs at Scarborough, 2.40.

BIRTHS: Armand Jean, Duc de Richelieu, cardinal and statesman, Chinon, France, 1585; Luigi Galvani, scientist, Bologna, 1737; William Blich, captain of HMS Bounty, Cornwall, 1754; Leo Tolstoy, writer, Yasnaya Polyana, Russia, 1828.

DEATHS: William the Conqueror, reigned 1066-87, Rouen, 1087; Sir Humphrey Gilbert, navigator, at sea south of the Azores, 1583; Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, painter, Malrome, France, 1901; Mao Tse-Tung, chairman of the People's Republic of China, 1949-59, Peking, 1976.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Admiral Sir David Hallifax, KCB, KCVO, KBE, will be held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on October 9, 1992, at 3pm. Applications for tickets enclosing s.a.e. to Chapter Office, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ, by September 25, 1992.

Miss Antonia Greenwell Murty-Gotto, who last week appeared in a photograph on this page showing preparation for the Queen Charlotte's Ball, was incorrectly described as Miss Samantha Nix.

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church is calling on its laity to help out in dioceses where there are no longer enough priests to go round. Many dioceses are training lay pastoral workers or grouping parishes together so they can continue without a resident priest, the National Conference of Priests meeting in Birmingham was told.

The conference is addressing collaborative ministry between laity, priests and bishops. According to *The Tablet*, the influential Catholic weekly journal, some parishes cannot now have a Mass on a Sunday because of the shortage of priests.

In Aberdeen, one of the largest dioceses in Great Britain, 36 priests, mostly in their 60s, are serving 20,000 Catholics. One priest is 88. The diocese suffered an added setback when two young priests left recently although they have remained active church members. The diocese

is taking the shortage into account in its pastoral plan. Some married men are being ordained permanent deacons, able to carry out all a priest's functions except say Mass or hear confession. A diocesan spokesman said: "There is a problem with the shortage of priests but it is not insuperable."

Father Brian O'Sullivan, chairman of the priests' conference, said the dwindling number of priests was "concentrating the mind wonderfully" on the need for collaboration.

He said: "Even if there were four times as many priests as there are now, I feel that collaborative ministry is the way forward."

Miss Pat Jones, assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, told the conference that collaborative ministry was a necessary response to the Second Vatican Council.

The following candidates have re-sat and passed the required Basic Vocational Course assessments in 1992 in order to complete the Basic Vocational Course by training and assessment:

In numerical order

A B Mima (J); J A Pastmore (M); A
Peggling (G); R K Singh (C); M
Edey (G); C G Fox (H); P H Holman (B)
M Salmond (B); A Naray (G); J
Garwood (A); I Hypelide de souza (L)
C A Jones (G); F S Krall (H); J
McCallum (D); A A J O'Connell
Townsend (W); A B Bannerman (H)
M Henley (M); J Jagnohn (M);
N McInerney (D); D C A Robinson (D);
J Eustace (S); S S Sawyer (D); J
M W White (G); R Ward (G); P Arnold
D M W Middlecote (H); AT Buck (H);
G P Chantyn (M); D E Cumming
(G); S Dissanayake (G); C P Furness
(R); R Hoppen (G); I Labelle (B); A Leach
(S); L D Libshin (C); T Logan (H);
M M Norridge (G); L A Nyander (G)
M K Phillips (L); H Pratt (H); R S Reale
(C); Simpson (A); E H Stanzani (F);
Sullivan (A) A Thruv (D); G Wilson

Mr Patrick Giles Andrew Eyre will be Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division, from September 15.

Birmingham

Appointments
Personal title of professor, from last June

Diabetic medicine: Dr A. H. Barnet, reader in medicine in the school on medicine.

Applied physics: Dr T. D. Beynon, reader in reactor physics, school of physics and space research.

Paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition: Dr I. W. Booth, reader in paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, school of medicine.

Old Icelandic: Dr A. S. Færevik, reader in Old Icelandic, school of English.

Philosophy: Dr C. J. Hookway, reader in philosophy, school of philosophy and psychology.

Experimental immunology: Dr E. J. Jenkinson, reader in experimental immunology, department of anatomy.

Professor John Burnt, director of the Centre for Business Economics, European Business School, has been appointed to the chair of business administration, from July.

Leeds
Professor Barry Whitaker has been appointed to the chair of mining engineering in the department of mining and mineral engineering, from October 1. He is currently professor of rock mechanics and director of the Institute of Environmental Engineering at Nottingham University.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

CHEERLESS



The 1989 monopolies commission report into beer supply has been a disaster for all concerned says Leli Mills, a former MMC member
Page 21

COLD BLAST

Steps by Russia to halt exports of oil products sent a cold blast through the energy futures market in London yesterday
Page 18

ON CALL



The number of British cable television subscribers may double in the next year thanks to a £25 million deal by GPT, the cable group
Page 19

OUT OF GEAR

Higher profits from overseas have not been able to prevent a dip in fortunes at IML, the engineering group
Page 19

HEINZ BLUES



Shares in Heinz fell in New York yesterday after first quarter profit fell 47 per cent
Page 19

THE POUND

US dollar 2.0020 (+0.0053)
German mark 2.7888 (-0.0114)
Exchange index 92.4 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1710.6 (-22.8)
FT-SE 100 2337.7 (-34.5)
New York Dow Jones 3271.39 (-10.54)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18262.42 (-157.76)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 9%-9.5%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.92-2.90%
30-year bonds: 9%-10%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £2.0040
C: DM2.7883
C: Sfr2.4900
C: FFfr5.0400
C: Yen245.78
C: Index: 92.4
ECU: 1.336655
C: ECU1.376362
C: SDP/100
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London: 344.80 PM (\$342.15)
Close: \$342.20-342.70
\$170.70-171.20
New York: 342.75-343.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.30/bbl (\$20.25)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987=100)
Domestic: monthly index price

Housebuilder urges government intervention after slide into red and halved payout

No recovery for five years, warns Wimpey

By MATTHEW BOND

SIR Clifford Chetwood, chairman of George Wimpey, one of Britain's biggest housebuilding and contracting groups, yesterday called on the government to intervene to bring the recession to an end. Without urgent intervention, he said, the slump could last another five years and send many contracting companies to the wall.

He did not accept the argument "that if we get inflation down and interest rates down, then the economy will take off." The experience of the American economy, which remained in recession despite interest rates of 3 per cent, was evidence of the futility of the argument, Sir Clifford said.

"It requires co-operation between government and industry to get the country back to business," he added. Without that, "there will be very few contracting companies left" in a few years' time.

Sir Clifford's call came as George Wimpey sent fresh tremors through the beleaguered building sector by reporting first-half pre-tax losses of £7.2 million (£200,000 profit) and a halving in the interim dividend to 2p. In an effort to calm stock market nerves, the company said that in the absence of further deterioration in trading conditions, a final dividend of 3.25p, half last year's sum, will be paid.

Wimpey shares fell by more than 18 per cent in early reaction to the losses, but later recovered to close 6p lower at 71p. Shares in other large contractors, such as Taylor Woodrow and John Laing,

due to report today and tomorrow respectively, fell in sympathy, with analysts preferring to wait and see rather than second guess the extent to which the slump has hit other companies.

Priority should be given to restoring confidence in house prices, Sir Clifford said. This was not special pleading, he said, but recognition of the fact that people will not spend when the money they have invested in property — "the largest investment they will ever make" — has vanished from under them.

He declined to urge specific measures from the government, preferring ideas to emerge from the consultation process. He said: "There can be schemes devised which are neither short-term nor impulsive and it should not be beyond our wit as a nation to identify them and implement them to help the country as a whole in the most effective way at our disposal — by getting the housing market back to steady growth."

Joe Dwyer, chief executive, said activity levels in all Wimpey's businesses — housebuilding, contracting and minerals — had deteriorated since April. "Since the general election, we have seen a further decline in housing and construction markets, compounded, as recently as two months ago, by a significant falling away in demand for aggregates in our UK markets." But he refused to say whether, with operating profits falling from £15.6 million to just £5 million, any of the group's divisions had incurred

losses. A breakdown will be provided with the full-year figures. During the half year, Wimpey sold 3,343 houses worldwide, about 12 per cent down on last year. Britain's contribution to that was 2,803 homes, a little over 10 per cent down on the first half of last year. The average selling price fell from £65,500 to £60,600, partly reflecting more sales to first-time buyers and partly reflecting the company's continued push into low cost, social housing.

Mr Dwyer said the company had budgeted to sell 6,250 units in Britain this year, 2 per cent down on last year. But statistics released on Monday by the Department of Environment showed housing starts in Britain 6 per cent down on last year in the first seven months of the year and 9 per cent down in the three months to the end of July.

Turnover fell almost 18 per cent to £731 million, partly reflecting Wimpey's policy of not chasing construction business at unprofitable margins. Mr Dwyer said. A fall in the forward order book from £800 million to £600 million also reflected this, together with the diminishing amount of work still to be done by Transmanche Link, the contractor building and equipping the Channel tunnel. Wimpey has a 10 per cent stake in TML. Mr Dwyer described the continuing three way negotiations with Euro-tunnel, developer of the tunnel, and bankers to the project as being at a "sensitive stage".

Comment, page 21



Grim outlook: Joe Dwyer, chief executive, yesterday reported a deterioration in all the company's markets

Fisons waits for US approval on Opticrom

By GEORGE STIVELL

CEBRIC Scroggs, the recently appointed chief executive of Fisons, said yesterday he was waiting for the American Food and Drug Administration to either lift the bar on Opticrom, the eye treatment, or to make another inspection of the British factory.

Costs of bringing Opticrom production up to FDA standards, and of ensuring that none of Fisons' other drugs would be affected, allied to delays in supply, sent profits down from £95.2 million to £40.4 million in the six months to end June. Despite a warning of such figures in June the shares fell 24p to 150p, a six-year low.

Fisons also blamed the impact of the recession on the scientific equipment division for the fall in profits. Scientific equipment profits fell 37 per cent to £17.1 million on sales up 2 per cent at £307 million.

Mr Scroggs and Patrick Egan, the new chairman, were critical of previous attempts at dealing with FDA complaints over Fisons production. Mr Scroggs said that finally it was decided to rebuild the Opticrom plant. Fisons was further disappointed this spring when FDA inspectors said they were still not happy.

Fisons says it has made top-level management appointments from candidates with a broad level of pharmaceutical experience to production, research and development, quality control, and personnel departments of the pharmaceutical division. And as what Fisons described as a sign of confidence, the half-year dividend was maintained at 3.3p. Ironically, sales of Opticrom in Britain rose 96 per cent from mid-1991 because of a severe hay-fever season.

Temper, page 20

Sterling suffers as Finns detach currency from ecu

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE decision by Finland to unpeg its currency from the ecu drove investors lemming-like out of Scandinavian currencies into the safety of the mark, putting the pound under renewed pressure.

The weaker pound, plus fresh opinion polls suggesting only a narrow majority in France in favour of the Maastricht treaty, fuelled unease in the City. The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares ended 34.5 lower at 2,337.7.

Sterling shed a penny on news of the effective devaluation of the Finnish currency, which aroused fears of knock-on devaluations and refocused market attention on the pound and the lira, both close to their lower limits in the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

At the official 4 pm London close, the pound stood at DM2.7888, a little more than a penny above its absolute ERM floor.

This left it well over a penny down on Monday, despite the £7.3 billion package of currency borrowing announced on Thursday to enhance the defences for the pound, and the firm commitment to present ERM parities that emerged from the weekend meeting in Bath, of European Community finance ministers and central bankers.

The lira, whose defence lines were reinforced on Friday by an increase in key interest rates and by overnight rates of 25 per cent, slipped back towards its ERM floor. It closed at 764.20 to the mark, against 763.40 on Monday.

The Finnish move, triggered by the depletion of its currency reserves, led to a 13 per cent devaluation of the national currency, the markka. Finland, caught in a severe recession, devalued 12.3 per cent only last November.

The Swedish central bank

swiftly responded to the Finnish move by lifting its marginal lending rate by eight percentage points to a record 24 per cent to stave off pressure on the krona. The Swedish credit market closed, unable to cope with the aggressive tightening.

Short-term interest rates in Norway also jumped about 3.5 points to 17 per cent, the highest for nearly four years. The authorities in both Sweden and Norway sought to reassure the markets that they would not follow the Finns' example and decouple their currencies from the ecu.

The Danish krone, a core member of the ERM, and the Icelandic currency, largely escaped the turmoil.

Although the pound did not appear to have been supported by the Bank of England, its renewed fall disturbed analysts.

David Simmonds, currency economist at Midland Montagu, said: "The pound does not look very good and will stay soft."

Amid speculation that the American authorities could cut the discount rate again soon, possibly after American producer price data on Friday,

sentiment for the dollar is unlikely to improve either. As the mark drew strength from Scandinavian turbulence, the dollar fell back to DM1.3900, recovering slightly late in the European day.

On Monday, the financial markets' reaction to the reassuring statements from Bath had been generally favourable, especially to the formal statement that the Bundesbank had no intention to raise interest rates.

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, made it clear yesterday, however, that there had been nothing new in the stance he took at the weekend meeting. He rejected the suggestion that he had conceded ground under pressure.

The centre-right government of Esko Aho, the Finnish prime minister, easily survived a vote of no-confidence in the parliament in Helsinki yesterday afternoon. Although the vote was not on the move to unpeg the mark, it was on the government's economic policy in general.

Currency floated, page 10
British gilts, page 20
Stock market, page 20

EC to plug Chrysler loophole

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, is today expected to ask Community governments to impose 20 per cent duties on all Voyager vans imported into the EC from a new Chrysler plant in Graz, Austria, that is scheduled to come on-line next year.

The decision will be one of the most controversial taken in the commission's battle to achieve a "level playing field" in Europe and is expected to anger both the Austrian government and the American carmaker. For the commission it comes at a particularly awkward time, with the EC's agreement with Austria and its European Free Trade Association partners to create a European economic area not yet ratified.

Sir Leon, who has investigated the funding of the plant with Frans Andriessen, his external relations colleague, believes the £72 million that the Austrian government has pumped into the factory con-

stitutes illegal state aid. The total cost of the factory, a joint venture with Puch, the Austrian company, is about £215 million; as it comprises 33 per cent of the total, the sum breaks EC state aid rules, which limit government contributions to 8-10 per cent.

The commission's enquiry was bolstered by complaints from Matra, the French state company, which makes the Renault Espace, the main EC competitor to the Voyager. Matra claims the Voyager will unfairly squeeze its van's share of the market.

Chrysler, which had previously looked to Spain and Portugal to set up a Voyager plant, was lured by the Austrian benefits. "They shopped around like all companies wanting to invest in the EC," a commission source said. "They wanted a site with free access to the EC — it's obvious that the Austrian market wasn't important to them."

Under free trade rules agreed between the EFTA

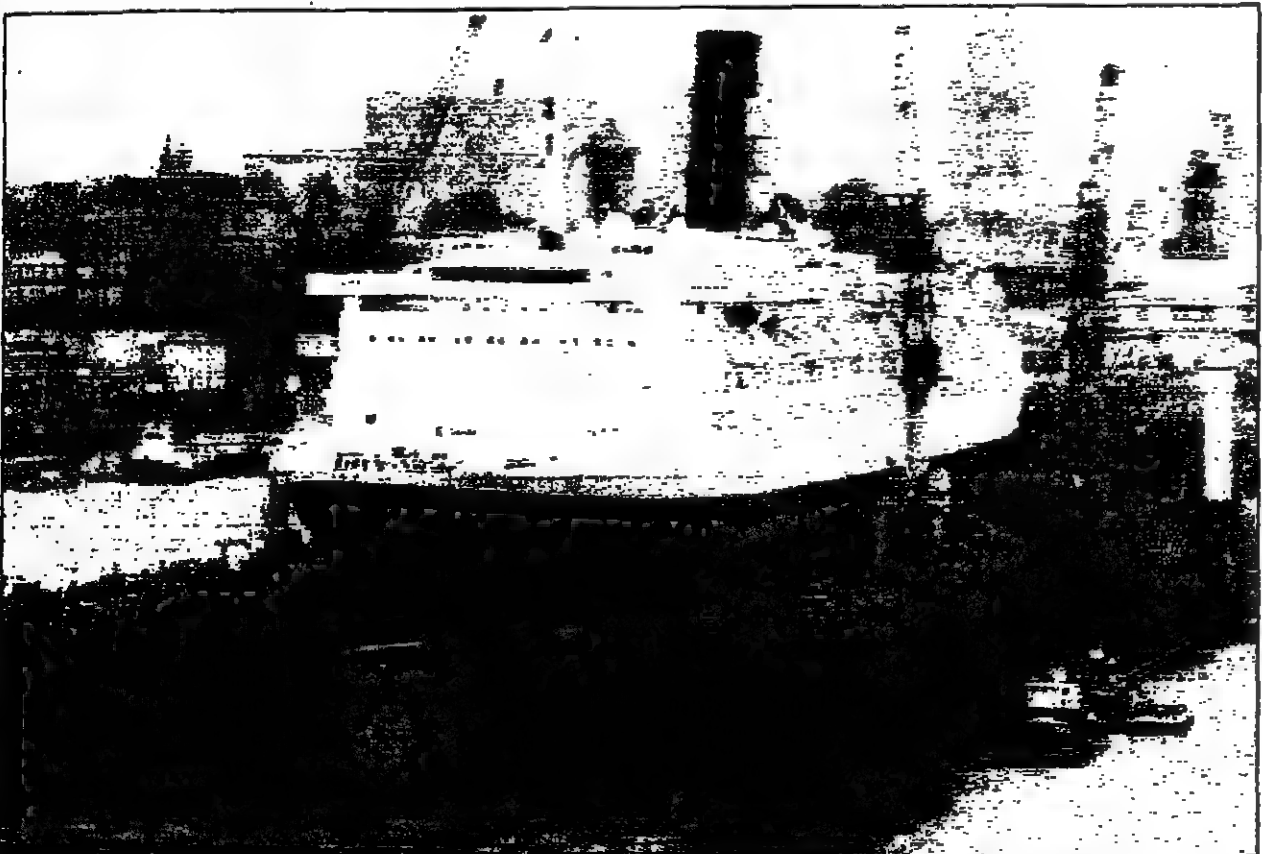
nations and the EC in 1973, when Britain left EFTA to join the Community, the EFTA countries should apply similar limits on state subsidies. "It's unfortunate that the Austrians did not feel bound by the rules," said the source.

After a long absence from the market, Chrysler will start selling Jeeps in Britain from the start of next year. Eventually the new Dodge Viper, enjoying huge demand in America, may also be sold in Britain, and the Voyager is due to hit the market in about 18 months. A Chrysler spokeswoman in Dover said no prices had been determined yet. As well as adapting the van to right-hand drive, the British version will also need the single sliding passenger door fitted onto the pavement side of the van. Renault has sold 15,000 Espaces in Britain since the "people carrier" came on the market in 1985.

Prices vary from £17,000 to £25,950 for the V6 top-of-the-range model.

Cost of repairs to QE2 could cruise past £30m

By JONATHAN FRONIN



Raised for repair: the QE2 in dry dock after arriving at the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg yesterday

THE Queen Elizabeth 2, the Cunard liner that was crippled by damage to its hull off the northeast coast of America in early August, has arrived at the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg for repairs.

The work to the hull and keel is expected to last until the end of the month and will cost at least £30 million, say industry experts. Cunard is yet to calculate the costs of the accident. It is believed that lost revenue from cancelled and postponed cruises will be about £14 million; for a total of at least £30 million, though the figure could be much higher.

The lead insurer to Cunard is Commercial Union, with about a fifth of the exposure to the loss. Lloyd's is thought to have limited exposure.

The ship arrived in Hamburg after a seven-day crossing from Boston at three quarter speed. Cunard is hoping to return her to scheduled services on October 4, when she is due to depart Southampton for a seven-day cruise around the coasts of Portugal and southern Spain.

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Oil futures leap as Russia suspends deliveries to West

By GEORGE SIVELL

GAS oil futures leapt on London's International Petroleum Exchange yesterday after the biggest Russian oil product exporter suspended deliveries to the West.

Product for delivery in September rose by \$4 a tonne before settling down to show a rise of \$2.50 to \$184.75. Rosneftexport was quoted by international news agencies as saying exports had been suspended to allow Russia to send fuel to its northern outposts before the rivers freeze up for winter and to assist with the 1992 harvest.

Japanese traders said that they had been told that Russia had declared *force majeure* on deliveries due between September 5 and 25.

Rosneftexport is estimated to handle about three quarters of Russian exports of oil products. In the first half of 1992 the International Energy Agency, based in Paris, estimated that the former Soviet Union exported 1.75

million barrels of oil a day made up of 1.25 million barrels of oil and half a million barrels of product. This is thought to be about 400,000 barrels a day down on the first half of 1991 just before the disruption caused by the failed August 1991 coup. A substantial proportion of existing CIS production comes from the Russian republic.

The IEA felt that CIS oil exports may have risen to 2.4 million barrels a day but thought that the figure for August had fallen. The Russian energy ministry said: "This situation happens almost every year when the far north needs fuel before the frosts come. Any normal concern must take circumstances like this into account." The ministry expects Russian oil output to fall to 395 million tonnes in 1992, from 462.3 million in 1991.

Ironically, the prospects of rising energy and food prices are jeopardising the progress

the CIS has made in controlling inflation. From a monthly rate of 300 or 400 per cent this January and February, it is estimated internally that inflation touched 7 per cent a month in July. The IMF, which is monitoring events in the former Soviet Union closely, wants a steady 10 per cent a month by the end of the year. □ Yesterday also saw the first strengthening of the rouble for two months. It rose to 207.9 against the dollar from a record low of 210.5 on the Moscow Currency Exchange. The last time the rouble rose in value was on July 9 when it cost 130.3 roubles to buy one dollar. Viktor Geraschenko, Central Bank chairman, said the bank has spent \$650 million so far this year defending the rouble, and is willing to spend only another \$100 million over an unspecified period of time. But the IMF said this was "not a useful policy" and could not "bring long-lasting results".



Rationalisation ahead: Bernard Taylor of Medeva

Warning of job cuts at Medeva

By OUR CITY STAFF

MEDEVA, the fast-expanding pharmaceuticals group, is warning of job losses and heavy rationalisation costs to come in the second half despite a 250 per cent surge in profits in the first half of this year.

Bernard Taylor, the chairman of Medeva, reports an 82 per cent advance in sales, from £31.7 million to £57.7 million, producing pre-tax profits of £14.1 million, against £4.01 million, although much of the increase relates to the string of recent acquisitions made by the group. Earnings per share more than doubled, from 2.26p to 4.58p a share, and the interim dividend is lifted from 0.5p to 0.75p a share.

But there are problems at Evans-Kerfoot, which operates in the highly competitive UK generics market. Mr Taylor says jobs will go in the second half of the year, as part of a rationalisation programme that will cost the group £1 million-£1.5 million during the period.

He says the board is "considering a number of options for the future of this business", whose sales fell by 28 per cent to £12 million in the first half.

Hillsdown acquires Dutch food group

HILLSDOWN, the food group, is to pay £50 million for what it describes as the leading European producer of prepared chilled salads. The Beledia chilled foods group includes the Johma Group in the Netherlands and Belgium, the Kobenhavns Salat Group in Denmark, and the Nadler Group in Germany. Nadler is also Germany's largest supplier of marinated and smoked fish products and is a leading distributor in Germany of ketchup, mayonnaise and sauces. Net assets being acquired are estimated at 90.8 Dutch guilders (£29 million). Sales in the year to the end of September last year were more than £1500 million and combined operating profits were £14 million. Hillsdown says that since 1988 about £100 million has been spent on modernisation, making the factories the most up to date in Europe.

US disposals for Lasmo

LASMO, the oil and gas group which took over Ultramar last December, has raised another \$100 million from disposals further relieving the pressure on its balance sheet, which at the last half-year end had £914 million of debt representing 80 per cent of shareholders' funds. Lasmo is selling Ultramar Oil and Gas Ltd of Houston to Cody Resources Inc for about \$85 million and expects about \$15 million from selling its share of the Bright Star Gas Gathering System in eastern Texas and other marketing assets.

Hiram Walker sells

HIRAM Walker, a subsidiary of Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group, has sold its Kendermann and Langenbach wine businesses in Germany to Gunther Reh, a private group, for an undisclosed sum. The business had a combined turnover in the last financial year of DM70 million. Its brands include Black Tower and Crown of Crowns. Hiram Walker will continue to distribute the two brands under long-term sole agency agreements in those markets, including Britain, where it already handles the brands.

Macro 4 lifts payout

MACRO 4, the computer software group lifted pre-tax profits to £8.75 million (£7.65 million) in the first half and earnings by 15.2 per cent to 26.5p, handing shareholders a 61.36 per cent dividend increase. Terry Kelly, the chairman, forecast "better than nominal profits growth" in 1993. Macro 4 does three-quarters of its business overseas. The company is paying a 7.61p final dividend on top of the 5.14p already paid, and is supplementing this with a special 5p dividend, which brings the total to 17.75p (11p).

Home Counties slips

HOME Counties Newspapers is maintaining the interim dividend at 2.75p, after profits fell from £636,000 before tax to £546,000 in the half-year to end-June, against £2.24 million two years ago. The group incurred an operating loss of £203,000 on turnover of £11.3 million but received an exceptional credit of £12,000 from the sale of shares in Reuters Holdings. Earnings were down from 4.25p to 3.66p. The final dividend will be decided in the light of trading conditions for the rest of the current year and early 1993.

Bletchley advances

SHARES in Bletchley Motor Group rose 20p to 170p in response to a 49 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £406,000 to £604,000 in the half-year to the end of June. The interim dividend is raised from 4.1p a share to 4.4p. Turnover rose from £30.3 million to £34.96 million and profits before interest payments from £1.1 million to £1.26 million. Interest charges eased from £690,000 to £657,000, reflecting initial benefits of a £2.1 million placing and open offer in June. Earnings were 11.4p a share, up from 8.1p.

Good year for Adscene

ADSCENE Group, the local newspaper group, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.61 million (£705,000) in the year to the end of May, reflecting sharply reduced costs. The company sliced £1 million out of administrative costs and repaid borrowings of £1.55 million, reducing interest charges from £790,000 to £528,000 and gearing from 59 per cent to 32 per cent. Earnings rose from 3.6p a share to 8.5p. There is a final dividend of 2.5p a share (1.25p), to restore the total dividend to 4p (2p), in line with the level of two years ago.

Profit fall at merged surveyor

By MATTHEW BOND

HERRING Baker Harris, a firm of chartered surveyors, has reported its first interim results since it was formed from the merger of Herring Son & Daw and Baker Harris Saunders at the end of last year.

The figures show the enlarged group making a pre-tax profit of £1.6 million, ten per cent down on the £1.8 million that Herring Son & Daw made in the first half of 1991. The merger came about by HSD taking over BHS and the figures have not been merged accounted. They are therefore not directly comparable.

Peter Farrington, chief executive, said the profit fall could not be blamed on the former BHS operation, which had been profitable from the start and had contributed £3.5 million to group turnover of £10.6 million.

He said, however: "Neither part of the enlarged business has been as profitable as we thought they would be last December."

The interim dividend is maintained at 3.25p, despite earnings per share falling 36 per cent to 6.24p (9.74p).

Nicholas Owen, chairman, described the results as a "tremendous achievement in an economy that refuses to shake off recession and an industry that tends to lag the economy".

A cost saving programme is being continued with the aim of achieving savings of £300,000 in the second half, making a total of £1 million for the full year.

Triumph on sales at Croda

By MICHAEL TATE

IMPROVED productivity at home and increasing sales overseas generated a 40 per cent rise in first-half profits at Croda International, the Humber-based chemicals, coatings and cosmetics group.

Michael Valentine, chairman, said pre-tax profits rose to £14.3 million (£10.2 million) and earnings per share of 7.2p (5.1p). The interim dividend is pegged at 2.75p.

Mr Valentine is unusually optimistic for an industrialist in the current conditions, describing the trading outlook as "in some respects surprisingly encouraging". He said raw material and energy costs were stable, demand in some overseas markets, notably America, was strengthening, and borrowing costs outside Europe were historically low.

At the same time, however, he said that economic activity in mainland Europe continues to weaken, that there is no end in sight to the UK recession and that the dollar has weakened significantly.

Croda says its success in coping with the recession this year is a reward for management planning and action over the past two years. Chemicals, contributing more than 80 per cent of the total, made record trading profits of £15.5 million, and the coatings division made a useful recovery, at £3.3 million (£2.7 million).

Only the cosmetics and toiletries activities disappointed, with a deficit of £200,000 against £200,000 profit last time.

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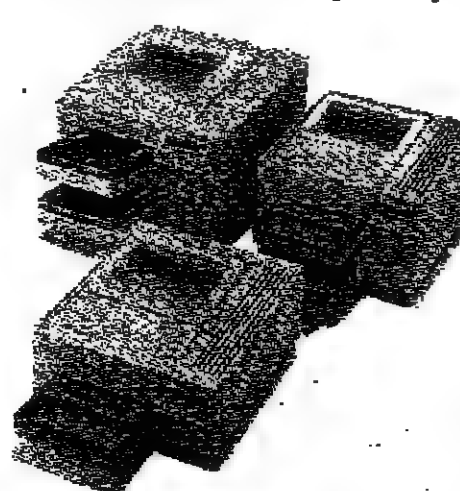
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Smith resign

GPT deal signals switch to cable telephone services

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A SHARP rise in the number of people switching from British Telecom and Mercury Communications to telephone services provided by cable companies is expected as a result of a development announced yesterday.

GPT said it had won a five-year contract to supply equipment to Southwestern Bell, an American regional telephone company with cable television franchises covering 1.2 million UK homes. The deal,

which could be worth up to £25 million and is one of the biggest made by a cable operator, might more than double the number of British cable telephone subscribers over the next 12 months from 47,000 to more than 120,000.

This contract alone could, by 1997, lead to almost 450,000 subscribers as 80,000 homes a year sign up, industry experts predict. It could put the cable industry on course for up to 10 million domestic telephone customers by the year 2000, irrespective of take-up by industry and business.

Under the deal GPT, a joint venture between GEC and Siemens, will provide hardware and network management equipment enabling Southwestern Bell to operate a discount telephone service in its franchise areas, which cover large parts of the Midlands and the North West.

Customer calls could be 10 to 20 per cent cheaper, with the telephone service paying for the television channels or vice versa. The network will offer fibre optic cabling to each street of the franchise areas.

Initially, Mercury will switch calls on to the national and international network for Southwestern Bell.

However, under the government's liberalisation of the

telecommunications industry, new network operators, such as BRT, Telecom Electric and British Waterways are planning to carry telecommunications traffic.

The equipment being supplied by GPT should eventually enable the cable company to re-route calls through the cheapest carrier, as well as to interconnect with adjacent franchises, bypassing BT and Mercury altogether.

According to Alex Findlay, a GPT official, the growth in cable telephony has exceeded early estimates, made in 1983 when the first of the 135 franchises were allocated.

Early operators believed that a mere 5 per cent of homes, rising to between 10 and 12 per cent, might be interested. Penetration has, however, reached 25 per cent; up to 30 per cent of subscribers to some franchises take telephony.

Recently, Cable Telecom, which operates in the Windsor and Maidenhead areas of Berkshire, reported that its telephone revenues had exceeded those from television.

Such developments have prompted GPT to set up GPT Cablecom, in Coventry, to supply telecommunications equipment to a cable telephony equipment market estimated to be worth £400 million in the next five years.

Barclays to sell Allied Trust Bank

A City bank with former connections to a senior shareholder in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International is being sold by Barclays to a South African institution.

Barclays is selling Allied Trust Bank to Investec Bank for £25 million. The bank specialises in high interest deposit accounts and personal and small business loans, and has assets of £200 million.

Two years ago, Barclays bought a majority stake in Allied Trust from Shaikh Kamal Adham, a former BCCI shareholder who is helping the American authorities in their enquiry into the collapsed bank.

Payout held

Record Holdings, the hand toolmaker, is holding its interim dividend at 1.15p a share, despite a decline in profits to £809,000 (£1.57 million) for the six months to end June. Earnings fell to 1.22p (3.32p) a share. Turnover rose to £13.97 million (£13.4 million), but trading profits fell to £801,000 (£1.75 million).

Instem ahead

Instem, the electronics and information systems group, raised its interim dividend to 1.3p (1.2p) on taxable profits of £551,000 (£507,000) and turnover of £7.1 million (£7.9 million) in the six months to end July. Earnings were 7.96p (7.21p) a share.

Ropner dips

First half profits at Ropner, the mini conglomerate, fell to £1.72 million (£2.27 million). Turnover rose to £8.3 million (£7.6 million), and the interim dividend stays at 3.5p.

Peek falls

Peek, the traffic control and field data systems group, has announced interim pre-tax profits of £2.8 million (£3 million) for the first six months of the year. The interim dividend stays at 1.05p.

Plantsbrook Group profits rise 40%

By Our City Staff

SHARP reductions in costs and interest charges have outweighed the effect of a declining UK death rate to leave first half profits at Plantsbrook Group, the undertaker, up 40 per cent at £4.9 million.

The company closed or sold 29 branches and shed 8 per cent of its workforce during the period, contributing to a 22 per cent increase in the operating margin and a 16 per cent fall in administrative costs. The interest bill fell from £2 million to £1.3 million.

Peter Hindley, the chief executive, said the death rate had fallen by 2.5 per cent in the first half, but government projections forecast a 1 per cent decline for the year as a whole.

"Indications are that the current satisfactory trend in trading should continue for the rest of the year," Mr Hindley said.

The company plans to increase market share and profits by adding to its 374 branch network, concentrating on the main population centres. Two London acquisitions in the first half have already added 450 funerals a year to

the company's turnover, Mr Hindley said.

A £10.5 million March rights issue has reduced gearing from a year end peak of 415 per cent to 75 per cent at June 30. Mr Hindley said this was a level of borrowing with which he was comfortable as interest cover remained at a healthy 4.6 times.

The interim dividend is being maintained at 1p, but is costing the company £271,000 more than last year because of the additional shares in issue.

Plantsbrook changed its name from PFG Hodgson Kenyon International at the time of the rights issue to emphasise the break with the company's past. In particular its glamorous former chairman Howard Hodgson. Mr Hindley said that the company was being associated "less and less, fortunately" with its previous high profile image. The long established local firms that make up the Plantsbrook network are now being re-emphasised at the expense of the corporate image built up by Mr Hodgson, he said.

Heinz chief stays confident

From Philip Robinson in New York

HEINZ profits dropped almost 47 per cent during May and June this year, but Tony O'Reilly, the chairman, says the year will show growth and increased earnings.

The fall in first quarter figures was exaggerated by a special one-off \$221 million bonus in the previous year from the sale of a business. Without that 1991 gain, operating income would have climbed a fifth from \$213 million to \$259 million on sales up 4 per cent to \$1.56 billion. The weakening dollar helped to boost sales.

But after taxes and all expenses, the net income figure of \$143.8 million was lower than Wall Street had expected and the shares,



O'Reilly: sees growth

which peaked at \$45.5 this year, lost \$1 to \$40.875.

Mr O'Reilly, who was named last year as the highest paid American executive with a \$75 million salary, said: "We are seeing the benefits of our many management initia-

tives, our shares are expanding in key US markets and I look forward to a year of growth and increased earnings." He said sales gains had been seen in a range of the group's 3,000 products including cat food, Starkist tuna and Heinz baby food.

Heinz shares fell after investors reacted to the company's first-quarter earnings that were below some analysts' estimates.

According to I/B/E/S, which compiles analysts' forecasts, the estimate for Heinz's fiscal first quarter was \$0.58 a share, with a high estimate of \$0.66 and a low of \$0.53. The stock was down 1 1/2 at 40 1/2. Norri Ghez, of Goldman Sachs, said of the drop in stock: "It is unnecessary panic. I saw nothing in the numbers to cause me any alarm."



Smiling through: Gary Allen, chairman of IMI, reporting lower profits yesterday

Titanium losses dent IMI

By Michael Tate, City Editor

LOSSES on titanium as aircraft builders continued to de-stock were mainly responsible for a £3.6 million downturn in pre-tax profits at IMI, from £40.1 million to £36.5 million, in the first half of 1992. There is an unchanged interim dividend of 4.2p.

Titanium prices plunged as Rolls-Royce, IMI's biggest

customer, and other firms cut back, and the business, part of the special engineering division, made a loss. The group hopes it will break even by the year end. Much of the damage was offset by the mining side, which made 1.6 billion coins during the period to meet demand from new republics.

Gary Allen, the chief executive, said the building products arm had held profits, thanks to another strong performance in eastern Germany, and the drinks dispensing division had shrugged off recession to increase its contribution.

Tempos, page 20

Candover prepares for upturn

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

CANDOVER Investments, the management buyout specialist, is planning to launch a fund next year to take advantage of any economic upturn.

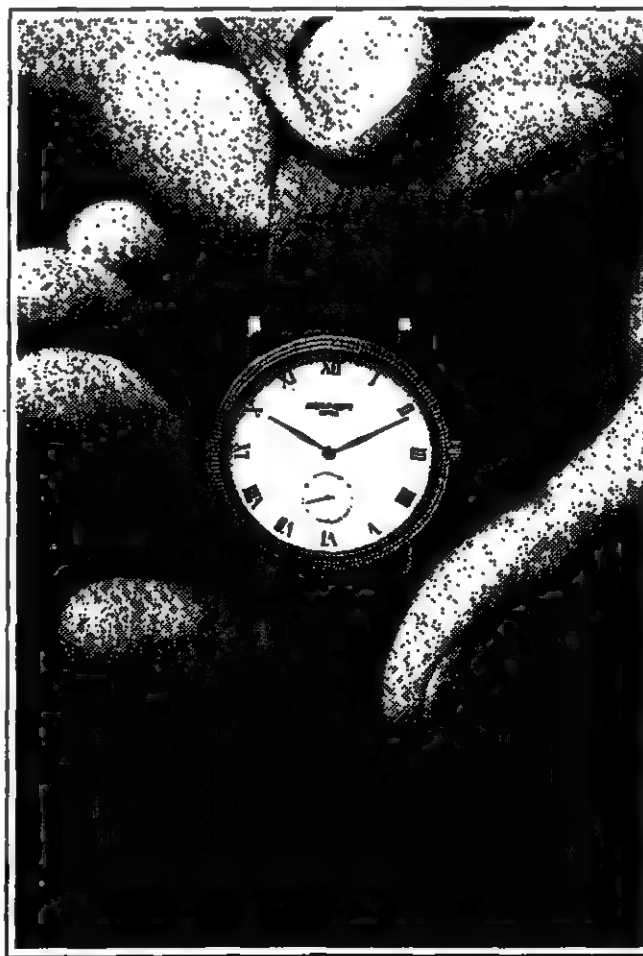
Candover has already held exploratory talks with investors who are thought to be keen to back the new vehicle. Roger Brooke, Candover's chairman, said the fund would succeed the existing 1989 fund, which raised £19 million, and which he expects will be fully invested by early next year.

Candover has continued its successful track record in spite of the recession. In the half year to end-June the group increased net assets by 3 per cent to 251p. The group achieved the growth in spite of making undisclosed provisions against some investments, which Mr Brooke said are struggling in the recession. Candover made provisions of £4.8 million in 1991 and Mr Brooke said the figures would be similar this year.

Fees from investment management helped to boost Candover's pre-tax profits for the half year by 4 per cent to £2.26 million. The group is raising its interim dividend by 7 per cent to 3.75p a share.

During the half year, Candover invested in three buyouts, including the £140 million sale of the Gaymer drinks group by Allied-Lyons. Candover's board is meeting today to discuss two potential investments.

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a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

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Smith resigns as Bimec chairman

By Jonathan Prynn

THE quoted corporate community lost one of its few remaining showmen yesterday when Sam Smith stood down as chairman and chief executive of Bimec Industries after surviving in the worthy but dull corporate world of the early 1990s long after most other flamboyant entrepreneurs had parted the scene.

His departure became all but inevitable last month when he announced that Bimec would not be paying its declared final dividend of 0.83p because of a sharp deterioration in trading conditions. The shares crashed to 64p on the news and left fuming analysts claiming they had been misled by the company.

Mr Smith had initially put a brave face on the setback, which came after two successive years of doubled profits and five years of rising profits, claiming as recently as mid August that "there is no

question of my resigning". The shares yesterday rose 1p to 8 1/2p.

Mr Smith is being replaced as chairman by Roy Barber, the company doctor, best known in recent years for replacing Graham Rudd at the helm of Thomas Robinson in October 1991.

Neither Mr Smith nor Mr Barber were available for comment yesterday. A terse statement from Bimec said, by way of explanation for the changes, that "The skills and qualities to build a business such as has been required over the past five years in an expanding economy are different from those now called upon for the management of Bimec in the present recessionary climate".

Mr Smith joined the then struggling group in 1989, exploiting its green credentials to the full to secure stock market backing for an ambitious acquisition expansion programme into aerospace, air conditioning and electronics.

The shares reached a peak of 86p in November last year followed by market rumours of a bid at £1 a share earlier this year.

Mr Smith quickly established a high profile for Bimec by charming analysts and investors with his avuncular Scottish manner. Few of his business peers in the sombre, cost cutting, recessionary 1990s could have got away with the loud suits, bow ties and carnations that Mr Smith consistently sported at press conferences and analysts' briefings.

The company, originally known as Biomechanics International, set itself high targets and was looking for annual sales of £250 million and profits of £24 million by 1994.

But pre-tax profits for the year to end March grew only 13 per cent to £6 million and were accompanied by a warning that the growth record could come to a halt in the current year.

TEMPUS

Fisons finds there is no quick remedy

IT IS tempting to make a case for investing in Fisons. When a share falls 24p to 150p on results more or less in line with a profits warning the case for recovery has to be examined. But at Fisons it will not work.

Yesterday, Patrick Egan, the new chairman, said Fisons should get back to good year-on-year growth, maybe not this year and maybe not on the dramatic scale seen in the eighties.

But there was concern in the City that the group, whose chief executive is Cedric Scroggs, would have to continue spending money beyond the first half of 1992 on bringing its procedures into line with the expectations of the American Food and Drug Administration.

Fisons said that of the £45 million fall in first-half profit, £15.7 million was attributable to lost sales but that £11 million of lost profit was down to reduced margins arising from increased quality control and inspection, and that this would be a cost that would persist in the future.

Market promotions and research and development were responsible for the rest of the shortfall. On the plus side, the board seems confident of fetching good prices for the consumer health and horticultural divisions that are up for sale. They could make a big hole in net borrowings of £239 million, or 53 per cent of shareholders' funds. Operational cashflow was marginally positive in the half year.

Analysis translated such openness by reducing full-year forecasts for Fisons for the current year from £130 million to £110 million before tax and £140 million before tax.



Testing the water: Cedric Scroggs, left, with Patrick Egan, the new chairman, yesterday

The 1993 forecast assumes that the FDA difficulties are resolved. The interim dividend was maintained at 3.3p and analysts expect a maintained total for the year of 8.7p, putting the shares on a surprising 7.8 per cent yield. On forecast 1992 earnings of 11.5p, the shares stand on a multiple of 13. Weary shareholders can only hold on for better things to come.

IMI

HAD Rolls-Royce not taken the decision to de-stock last year, IMI might well have avoided a fall in pre-tax profits at all in the first half of

1992, it seems. Interim results show the drinks dispensing division achieving an impressive advance in profits and building products continuing to benefit from the reconstruction of east Germany, while a 23 per cent downturn in fluid power is blamed largely on the rationalisation needed after the group's recent hectic expansion in this sector. Together, these operations contributed £35.8 million in trading profit. The remaining division, special engineering, saw a £2.4 million setback to £4.7 million, with a strong performance by the components business, including the main-

ing operations, which benefited from the demand in eastern Europe for new coinage, buried by losses from titanium and copper alloy tubing. Even the weaker dollar works in IMI's favour, given that it exports some two-and-a-half times more from America than it sells there, and that 75 per cent of the group's borrowings are in dollars. And yet IMI does not now see any recovery in the UK at least until next year, and is prepared to say no more about the American improvement than that it is fragile. The balance sheet remains strong, with gearing still at 31 per cent after £14 million of

acquisitions in the first half, and £24 million of capital expenditure, and the group remains cash generative at the operational level. With profits expected to take another £2.5 million hit in the second half from restructuring costs, the group will do well to make £75 million pre-tax to produce earnings of perhaps 15.5p. Commendable though this would be, the market's respect is already in the 228p share price.

William Baird

MISTIMING the length of the recession was the best mistake that William Baird

ever made. Sixteen months ago, the textiles and engineering group raised a £39 million issue, in the belief it would allow it to expand into the imminent economic recovery. The recovery is still a distant dream, but the rights issue cash has acted as an invaluable shield against the ravages of recession. Baird will be debt-free at the end of the year, and a 50 per cent fall in interest charges to £1.56 million was the only reason for the 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £10 million in the first half of the year.

The figures suggest that Baird is weathering the recession better than most, but the second half may tell a different story. Baird has struggled to sell off five subsidiaries of Darchem, its engineering division. The extra disposal costs and the closure of a womenswear factory are expected to produce a £3 million exceptional charge.

Overall, Baird's textile division is faring better than engineering. The former held operating profits at £8.8 million as sales rose £6 million to £195 million. Second-half figures may not be so resilient since Baird warned shareholders that demand had deteriorated during the summer.

Operating profits at Darchem, meanwhile, fell £500,000 to £3.2 million on lower sales. When the division is restructured it will consist of three core divisions: engineered insulation, fire protection and on-site services, the business's order book, however, remains sparse.

Baird will remain firmly on the defensive until the recovery finally arrives. Profits should rise by £2.5 million this year to £27.5 million, but once again, thanks mainly to the rights issue cash. The shares, at 200p, stand on a p/e ratio of 12 and are not worth pursuing.

Dow suffers from holiday hangover

New York — Shares were weaker in quiet morning trade as market participants began to return after the long Labour Day weekend. By late morning, the Dow Jones industrial average was ten points lower at 3,271.93. Declines led advances by six to five.

Frankfurt — The market subsided after Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank presi-

dent, pointed out that his weekend declaration on German interest rates was nothing new. The Dax index ended 3.92 points higher at 1,544.55.

Sydney — Australian shares closed at a 15-month low but managed to edge back over the 1,500 mark. The All Ordinaries index ended 13.1 lower at 1,501.5. (Reuters)

TOKYO

Profit-taking cancels out early advances

Tokyo — Shares closed weaker after surrendering early gains in quiet trading. Profit-taking and index-linked selling took their toll on prices as many investors, deprived of buying incentives, deserted the market, brokers said. "Volume is relatively thin and there's no particular news in the market to draw people back," one commented. "The index-

linked buying of the morning session, simply kicked into reverse in the afternoon." The 225-share Nikkei average fell 157.76 points to 18,282.42, with about 400 million shares traded. Prices of blue chips were nudged higher at the close and the 30-share Straits Times index rose 11.61 points to 1,377.20. (Reuters)

HONG KONG

Technical lift for shares

Hong Kong — Shares finished firmer on technical buying, mainly by local investors, in thin trading, brokers said. Turnover fell to a new year's low of HK\$1.14 billion from Monday's HK\$1.32 billion. The blue chip Hang Seng index rose 36.18 points to close at the day's high of

5,700.59, having moved in a 43-point range all day. A broker at Daiwa Securities said much of the buying was purely technical, in case some good news came out of imminent talks on the colony's new airport. "I could hardly see genuine investors taking positions today." (Reuters)

WALL STREET

5p-8p	8p-11p	11p-1p	1p-4p	4p-8p
IBM	111.00	111.00	111.00	111.00
Microsoft	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00
Oracle	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
Sun	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
HP	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Intel	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Motorola	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Amgen	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Boeing	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
General Electric	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Johnson & Johnson	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Pfizer	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Merck	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Novartis	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Roche	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Schering-Plough	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Abbott	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Amgen	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Boeing	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
General Electric	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Johnson & Johnson	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Pfizer	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novartis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Roche	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Schering-Plough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Abbott	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amgen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Boeing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Johnson & Johnson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pfizer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Merck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Wimpey prepares for a long night

As often with elder corporate statesmen, Sir Clifford Chetwood's outpourings over the economy, in which he claimed the building recession would last at least another three years unless unspecified action was taken, diverted attention from the actual performance of George Wimpey. Whether this verbal smoke-screen was deliberate or accidental, we shall probably not discover until next March, when the preliminary figures are published and the market can judge whether the relatively modest first-half loss was a true indicator of the group's fortunes.

Much was left unsaid as the company temporarily abandoned the "openness" that it embraced for the first time in March. A detailed breakdown is promised again for next year, but shareholders can feel aggrieved with a company that refuses to explain the full impact of a recession that its own chairman had gone to such lengths to amplify. His macro gloom can best be seen as an explanation of the board's decision to halve the dividend.

Wimpey is keen to draw attention to the improvement in its balance sheet, claiming that, by the end of the year, it could be three-quarters of the way towards its target of raising £400 million through disposals. Yet £300 million of disposals were highlighted back in March. Since then, things have clearly been a little quiet. After banking the £110 million sale proceeds from a half stake in the Little Britain office block, Wimpey has at least cut its net debt since June, when it stood at £232 million.

Gearing by the year end will not be the 23 per cent that simple arithmetic suggests, but it should not be a lot higher unless the company runs into a real disaster on the value of its residential land bank, its investment properties or its share of the contract to build the Channel tunnel. Disasters apart, that suggests that Sir Clifford is right about one thing. Wimpey is one contracting group that will be around for the recovery. But as yesterday's figures showed — none more eloquently than the dwindling forward order book — there could be a long wait.

Aerospace blues

Car manufacturers are to be congratulated on cutting the prices of their main models. This realism at last alleviates to some extent the absurdity of turning their main relationship with customers at dealer level into an adversarial one. Sadly, it is one more embarrassment for British Aerospace, which has put profit margins above market share in its strategy for Rover, only to find that undone by the length of the recession in the domestic market. BAE has suffered equal embarrassment at the Farnborough Air Show, where it has had little to announce by the way of orders or about the future of its non-Airbus commercial aircraft businesses. The group is constrained ahead of its interim results in a couple of weeks' time but BAE followers in the City doubt whether John Cahill, the new chairman, will be able to clear the decks by then.

The best guess is that BAE will show only a small profit overall for the first six months of the year, assuming it does not make provisions or exceptional charges before resolving the future of the regional and executive aircraft businesses. Mr Cahill evidently sees the company's defence and Airbus wings, the best performers, as the core businesses. Most of the rest are likely to show losses: fairly modest at Rover but exaggerated, in the case of civil aircraft, by uncertainty over their future. Closure of the regional aircraft business will be expensive indeed if Mr Cahill fails to clinch a joint venture or sale. The 208p share price, compared with the 380p rights issue a year ago, bespeaks the folly of that inadequate exercise and the confidence-sapping events that have unfolded since.

One former member of the MMC believes the report into the brewing industry has been no less than a disaster, Martin Waller writes

In Aristotle's *Politica*, which attempts to establish the minimum functions that define the existence of the state, the sage lays down the dictum that a likely impossibility is always preferable to an unconvincing possibility. The phrase, in its original Greek, appears in the more prosaic surroundings of the March 1989 monopolies report into beer supply. It forms the conclusion to the note of dissent by Leif Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, from the findings of the other four members of the panel.

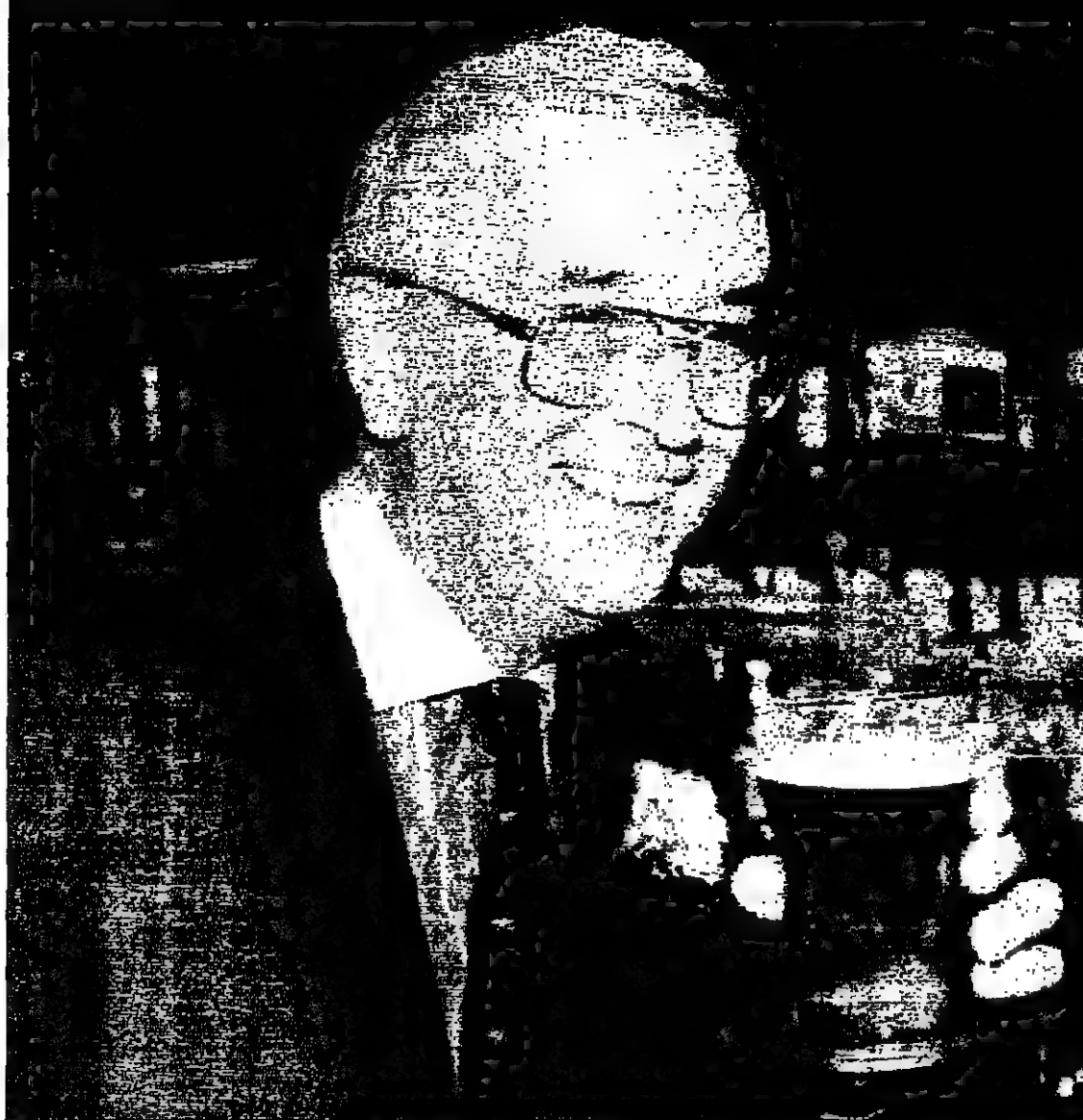
The MMC was looking into the strong control, seen by some as a stranglehold, that the big brewers exerted over an industry that accounts for 2 per cent of gross domestic product, and the extent that control stemmed from that peculiar institution, the British pub. Mr Mills' note of dissent, shorn of the higher philosophy, might best be summarised by two down-to-earth aphorisms: if it isn't broken, don't fix it, and, if you don't know how to fix it, don't start.

The commission's report, which gave rise to what are known as the beer orders, achieved the remarkable feat of attracting immediate criticism both from the beer barons, whose powers it was designed to curb and from the publicans in their thrall, in whose interests it aimed to act. Also unhappy were the unions and a fair number of the smaller brewers whose market positions it was intended to boost. The beer orders are due to be implemented by the end of next month to general dissatisfaction. Being wise after the event is always easy. One man who has the right to dissect earlier mistakes under the microscope of 20:20 hindsight is Mr Mills. He is in a position to do so, having last year stepped down from the MMC after nine years.

The decision to require the sale of 22,000 pubs by the big brewers was probably the most radical move ever envisaged by an MMC report. The enquiry, initially intended to take two years, was extended by another six months because of the sheer weight of evidence. It triggered a £5 million advertising campaign by the brewers warning of the death of the British pub. But Lord Young, then trade secretary, gave the report immediate support by rushing to say that he was "minded to implement" the majority's main recommendations.

That was a very silly thing to say, says Mr Mills now. "He should have had a cold, hard look at the whole thing first." The main conclusions were that no brewer should be allowed to own or lease more than 2,000 pubs. At the time, the three biggest estates owned by Bass, Allied-Lyons and Whitbread, consist-

BARRY GREENWOOD



Championing a drinkers' cause: Leif Mills says the MMC report left the consumer with less choice

ed of 7,300, 6,600 and 6,500 properties respectively. In addition, tenants were to be given the freedom to take at least one brand of draught beer, the "guest beer" from someone other than the landlord, and other drinks from the most competitive suppliers. Tenants' leases were to be brought within the provisions of the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act, giving them further security of tenure, and brewers were to publish fixed wholesale price lists. Were this not done, the report said, "we believe it inevitable that a small number of national brewers will increasingly dominate not only the manufacture of beer but also the wholesaling of beer and non-beer alcoholic and soft drinks, and will continue to dominate beer retailing."

The response from the brewers was predictable. Half the country's small breweries and thousands of jobs would disappear within five years, said the Brewers Society. The report was drawn up by "a lot of economists who have not spent any time in the industry and know nothing about what the beer-drinking public want," said its chairman, Anthony Fuller.

Mr Mills, while accepting that there was a "complex monopoly" dominating the British brewing industry, issued a warning that the

recommendations of the majority view were "far more drastic than is necessary" and could worsen the problem. "I consider that the recommendations are unnecessary and indeed could lead to a reduction of competition and less consumer choice," he wrote.

Both the forecasts of the majority and Mr Mills' minority prognosis are worthy of repetition this year, because the intervening three years have seen just what Mr Mills feared, and the majority intended to avoid: a concentration of more capacity in the hands of fewer brewers.

Mr Mills agreed with the need to bring in the guest beer and to secure better protection for the tenant. But in a telling aside, he said the reduction of the big estates to 2,000 would not significantly increase the number of beers served in the nation's pubs, not least because the average pub lacks the necessary space to take more than perhaps a half a dozen brands. The 22,000 spare pubs to be sold would probably go to outside interests not already involved in the industry, he said, but they would themselves on the whole want to sell the highly advertised, highly profitable national brands.

They might countenance taking one locally produced or specialist real ale; but this could just as well be achieved by the guest beer rule. He also questioned the received wisdom that the vertical integration common in Britain, where a company owns production capacity, the distribution network and the outlets through which the product is sold, reinforces big brewers' ability to dominate the market. In America, for example, Anheuser-Busch had 40 per cent of the market and the two biggest interests between them 60 per cent, yet brewers are legally not allowed to own the wholesaling and retailing end of the business. Mr Mills argued: "In most countries where there is no vertical integration there are fewer brewers than there are in this country."

The argument that the brewers in Britain use the geographical concentration of their pubs to manipulate the price of beer is one that falls apart on more mature consideration: the areas are few and far between where a brewer can own every pub and can charge what he wishes in the certainty that the drinker cannot go elsewhere. The huge difference between the price of a pint in, for example, the provinces and London have more to do with variations in costs such as

wages and property rents and rates. No brewer has anything like a dominant position in London. In July 1989, Lord Young backtracked, to claims from the Labour party that the government was guilty of "a craven and complete capitulation" to the brewers, the traditional bank-rollers of the Conservative party. The brewers would have to sell, or lease free of the tie to take their product, just half of those pubs they owned above the 2,000 limit. This cut the number of pubs that would have to be freed up from the big estates to 11,000, and also confirmed the big pub owners in their market predominance; any other brewer trying to expand in retailing would be held at or below the 2,000 limit, while the tied estate of Bass could still be 4,650.

Intervening events — the recession and the collapse in property prices — have helped to derail the MMC's course of action for the industry. Pubs have not been sold by the big brewers as easily as the MMC anticipated. Some of the businesses that entered the market and bought part of the unwanted tied estate have quickly gone bust. Both factors have led to the closure of many of the marginal pubs.

A comparison between the 1989 MMC report and its more recent look at the proposed merger between Allied-Lyons' brewing interests and the British end of Denmark's Carlsberg is damning. In 1985, the last year for which the MMC could gather figures, Bass had 22.9 per cent of the beer market by production, Allied 12.8 per cent, Whitbread 11 per cent, Scottish & Newcastle 10.6 per cent, Grand Metropolitan 8.8 per cent and Courage 6.7 per cent. Aside for the dominance of Bass, this put the other five on reasonably equal pegging and left more than a quarter of the market in the hands of the independents.

Since then, three significant regional brewers, Greenall, Whitely, Boddingtons and Devenish, have pulled out of brewing entirely to concentrate on their pub estate. The MMC estimated this year that Allied and Carlsberg combined had 12 per cent of the ale market last year. Bass has retained 20 per cent, while S&N and Whitbread have 13 and 12 per cent respectively. The other two of the original big six, GrandMet and Courage, have merged their brewing businesses to take 20 per cent and joint market leadership.

The big brewers, as initially constituted, have raised their share to 77 per cent. The latest study said less than a third of eligible pubs stocked a guest beer, as they were now allowed, and a third of these took that beer from the brewer to which they were tied. Meanwhile, the price of beer has shown no sign of subsiding under the supposed onslaught of free competition in a deregulated industry. Instead, according to the Campaign for Real Ale, pub prices for beer rose 17 per cent more than inflation in the past three years.

"The MMC report was a disaster," says Mr Mills. "There are fewer pubs, higher prices, less consumer choice and less competition." That is a conclusion few drinkers propping up the four-ale bar will challenge.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Well out of it

LORD (Cecil) Parkinson, declaring "I am a businessman now," reveals that he has taken personal stakes in several companies, at least two of them publicly quoted, and will become chairman of the two in question next year. Although he declines to identify the companies concerned, Parkinson, looking fitter and more relaxed than he has for years — and looking forward to the publication of his book *Right at the Centre* in October — accepts that the outlook for business is not going to be easy. "The economy is in a very bad way, everything about it is extremely serious," he says. "On the one hand our biggest customer is weakening its currency and on the other we are bound by the constraints of the ERM. These are very, very difficult times for Britain and for the government." Parkinson, who has faced his fair share of difficulties over the years, then quipped: "If ever I feel depressed or sorry for myself I think about Norman Lamont and then I feel better — he is facing a most difficult time."

Journey to Mars

THE chill wind of change continues to blow through Nomura, the Japanese securities firm, with two more of its analysts resigning yesterday. Chemicals analyst Richard Henderson and oil analyst Alan "Lanky" Marshall — 6ft 5ins tall — have accepted an offer from another firm with a busy revolving door, Swiss



Bank Corporation. Their departure comes less than a week after the resignation of European banking specialist Robert Grant, who has left Nomura to join UBS Phillips & Drew. Jim O'Neill, head of SBC's research department, describes the recruitment of Henderson and Marshall as the second stage in the firm's plan to "rebuild and hopefully redefine" the department "in a way we think European equity research should be done". O'Neill said the first stage was the recruitment of David Mars, from Warburg as head of European equity research in May. "The next stage is to hire the analysts to support him and these two are the first."

Singles bar

A business centre in a converted nunnery alongside a Catholic church on London's Fulham Road is acquiring something of a reputation for its mysterious match-making powers. Since business manager Gail Wasserman joined the Chelsea Chambers Busi-

ness Centre a few months ago, half of the female workforce employed by one of its resident companies have married or become engaged. With three marriages already celebrated, Wasserman says she wonders "if the spirits of the nunnery are making up for lost time". The centre has just become part of the Zurich-led World Wide Business Centre Network Europe but Wasserman says she is now thinking of marketing it as an introductory service. "Unfortunately, the magic hasn't yet worked for me," she says. Still single, and at 24, Wasserman agrees, however, there is still time.

Battle cry

CITY dealers were calling old chums yesterday and tipping them off to "mind your eye" — an old stock market expression, used when a price sensitive announcement is imminent — in ICI shares. Their interest was triggered when ICI shares fell 10p on the day to ... 1066.

Stars and lights

THE fairy lights that bedeck Harrods will be changing colour tonight for the first time since their installation 33 years ago. To mark a two-month promotion of American goods — taking advantage of recent exchange rate fluctuations — US ambassador Raymond Seitz will flick a switch at 7.45pm, turning the 5,500 white light bulbs on the front wall of the building into an assortment of red, white and blue.

CAROL LEONARD

Market forces and boardroom fees

From Mr E. R. Goodwin
Sir, At the recent AGM of Eastern Electricity a very interesting suggestion was made by one of the shareholders when it came to re-electing directors. In response to the comment about the high level of remuneration paid to directors, the chairman gave the usual reply that a remuneration panel set the level of pay and in order to attract and keep high-quality people salaries had to keep up with the market. And the trap was sprung. "Fine," said the questioner, "but let the market determine the level by offering them 10 per cent less in salary if they wished to remain as directors. If they think that this is unacceptable let them see whether they can obtain comparable posts elsewhere at their age in this time of recession and high job compe-

Bank charges

From Mr C. J. B. Brett
Sir, Your interesting report on bank account charges (September 2) contains some astonishing assertions by John Cheese, of Barclays Bank. May I, as a satisfied customer of one of his competitors for about 60 years, rebut some of his assertions.

The so-called free banking is not really free. I estimate that my credit balance yields a profit to the bank of about 25p per transaction. In addition, the banks undoubtedly attract fees from the business recipients of my payments, ultimately reflected in their charges to me. Admittedly, I fare better than those not in credit, who pay 50p per transaction, but I do not accept that I am receiving a free subsidised service. Mr Cheese claims that if charges were re-introduced people would prefer a fixed

charge. This would mean that those making modest demands would be subsidising heavy users of the bank's services. If consistent in his arguments he should oppose this.

It is a mistake to speak of charges being re-introduced. They have never been totally discontinued, and free banking existed long before 1984. Charges used to be at the manager's discretion, so that those with accounts such as mine scarcely ever incurred such. With computerisation of accounts and reduction of local managerial discretion the system had to be codified. The marketing men publicised this as free banking, a myth which they now seek to abolish as an excuse for imposing charges upon those who have never before had to bear such.

Yours faithfully,
EARL GOODWIN,
50 West Drayton Park Avenue,
West Drayton, Middlesex.

Weighing up the pros and cons of mathematics

From Mr Owen Curtis
Sir, Reading that Rosie Ham is going to become a teacher of mathematics (City Diary, August 24) made me question if parents are aware how arithmetic and calculations have been belittled out by the abstract and esoteric mathematics.

In the last century, English and modern foreign languages in schools suffered as Latin took priority. I see a similar trend in arithmetic versus mathematics.

Decision making is important and could be related to number operations, but there are no words in the language to describe this activity. Some time ago, I discovered that none of a large group of

students knew the weight of a large loaf or realized that a small loaf was half its weight. How many smokers know the weight of a cigarette or how the duty is calculated. That might affect decisions. Best wishes,
OWEN CURTIS,
33 Victoria Avenue,
Hull,
Humberside.

vita



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INTERIM RESULTS

SIX MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 1992

Turnover	£372m
Profit before tax	£ 27m
Earnings per share	7.9 p
Dividend per share	3.5 p

- Profit before tax up 11% shows continued good performance in difficult economic conditions
- Earnings per share and dividend per share up by 3% and 5% respectively
- Ongoing challenge to maintain margins in tough markets
- Balance sheet further strengthened by successful Rights Issue, provides platform for growth

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Copies of the Interim Report can be obtained from the Company Secretary

FT-SE VOLUMES									
Abbey Natl	763	Coats Y&P	2,300	Legal & Gen	443	Rail Bk Sect	304		
AdLib-Hynds	740	CN Union	2,100	Lloyds Bk	1,900	Sainsbury	304		
Anglian W	993	Courmauld	1,200	MB Cardin	1,000	Seco & New	577		
Argyll Gp	1,700	East City	392	M&P	163	Scott Power	5,100		
Arjo Wiggins	1,000	Ennerp Oil	5,500	Marlet Sp	5,500	Sears	3,500		
AB Foods	113	Burnton Int	133	NFC	173	Stn Trans	1,100		
AA	1,100	Finlay	16,000	Navigat Bk	4,300	Steel Trans	1,400		
BAT Inds	1,600	Forre	798	Nat Power	2,100	Stiebel	988		
BET	1,600	GRZ	4,900	Nat W&W	716	Smith Bch	985		
BIC	3,200	GUS A	74	Natm Pts	722	Smith Npt	1,200		
B&C	400	Gen Acc	919	Natm W&P	1,200	Smith W&P	1,200		
B&S	2,300	Gen Kin	400	Peacock	864	Stn Altn	2,400		
B&T	3,100	Glasco	3,400	Pittsburgh	3,300	T&S	1,100		
Bk of Scot	1,600	Grund Met	2,000	PowerGen	826	T&L & Lyte	4,200		
B&S	3,500	Guinness	1,500	Prudential	640	Tenco	3,800		
Blue Circle	1,600	Harcort	800	PSA	1,400	Thames	1,500		
Boots	1,600	Hillside	2,700	Rank Org	803	Timmins	450		
Bowater	163	ICI	914	Redcliff	1,400	Unilever	399		
B&I A&E	989	Incheape	912	Redund	2,000	Unit Balc	2,200		
B&I Airways	1,200	Int'l	1,800	Redund	2,000	Vodafone	2,200		
B&I Gas	2,300	LASMO	1,000	Rentelco	330	Wellcome	2,600		
B&I Steel	16,000	Ladbroke	3,400	Reuter	199	Whitb & A	4,000		
British West	1,600	Laid Secs	197	Rothmans	810	Willis Crm	718		
Canbury	1,900	Laporte							

MAJOR INDICES														
New York (midday):					FISE Euro 100: 1029.38 (-2.90)									
Dow Jones	271.39 (+10.54)	Brussels			General		3287.74 (-1.34)							
S&P Composite	415.69 (+1.39)	Paris: CAC			Zurich: S&K Gen		420.8 (-0.8)							
Tokyo:					London:									
Nikkei Av'ge	1822.42 (+137.76)	PT A All-Share		1106.45 (-14.04)	PT 500		1245.50 (-17.77)							
Hong Kong:					PT Gold Mines		68.6 (-4.3)							
Hang Seng	5700.59 (+36.18)	PT Fixed Income		105.33 (+1.71)	PT Govt Secs		88.98 (-0.48)							
Amsterdam:					Bargains		152.82							
CBS Tendency	109.0 (-0.3)	SEAK Volume		418.12	S&M (Downton)		112.11 (+0.11)							
Sydney: AO				1501.18 (+1.1)	Frankfurt:									
DAX				1544.55 (+3.62)	First Dealings:									
					September 1	September 11	Last December	For Settlement	December 7					

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES									
FT-SE 100	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume			
Previous open interest: 45721	Sept 92	2390.0	2403.0	2335.0	2382.0	11624			
	Dec 92	2435.0	2443.0	2382.0	2381.5				
Three Month Sterling	Sept 92	89.71	89.72	89.65	89.51	10016			
	Dec 92	89.68	89.75	89.44	89.46	49501			
	Mar 93	90.09	90.14	89.92	89.94	7036			
Three Mth Eurodollar	Sept 92	96.83	96.83	96.82	96.81	1054			
Previous open interest: 30956	Dec 92	96.78	96.78	96.75	96.76	104			
Three Mth Euro DM	Sept 92	90.26	90.29	90.25	90.28	9767			
Previous open interest: 380315	Dec 92	90.37	90.62	90.32	90.54	43670			
US Treasury Bond	Sept 92	107.19	107.19	107.16	107.19	7			
Previous open interest: 1315	Dec 92	106.12	106.14	106.07	106.13	247			
Long Gilt	Sept 92	97.19	97.19	96.20	96.21	1635			
Previous open interest: 60405	Dec 92	96.40	96.40	96.24	96.28	5408			
Japanese Govt Bond	Sept 92	108.99	108.20	105.99	106.08	1393			
Previous open interest: 123914	Dec 92	89.33	89.51	89.23	89.29	64652			
Three month ECU	Sept 92	88.86	88.86	88.76	88.77	423			
Previous open interest: 13269	Dec 92	89.37	89.37	89.23	89.27	1077			
Euro Swiss Franc	Sept 92	92.13	92.16	92.08	92.13	2335			
Previous open interest: 51494	Dec 92	92.36	92.37	92.32	92.40	9623			
Italian Govt Bond	Sept 92	92.30	92.73	91.30	91.49	21407			
Previous open interest: 25517	Dec 92	92.36	92.73	91.30	91.49	21407			

COMMODITIES										
CRUDE OIL (Brent) (USD)					CRUDE OIL (WTI) (USD)					
Sept 92	20.25	-0.05	Sept 92	20.25	-0.05	Sept 92	20.25	-0.05	Sept 92	20.25
Oct 92	20.30	-0.05	Oct 92	20.30	-0.05	Oct 92	20.30	-0.05	Oct 92	20.30
Nov 92	20.35	-0.05	Nov 92	20.35	-0.05	Nov 92	20.35	-0.05	Nov 92	20.35
Dec 92	20.40	-0.05	Dec 92	20.40	-0.05	Dec 92	20.40	-0.05	Dec 92	20.40
Jan 93	20.45	-0.05	Jan 93	20.45	-0.05	Jan 93	20.45	-0.05	Jan 93	20.45
Feb 93	20.50	-0.05	Feb 93	20.50	-0.05	Feb 93	20.50	-0.05	Feb 93	20.50
Mar 93	20.55	-0.05	Mar 93	20.55	-0.05	Mar 93	20.55	-0.05	Mar 93	20.55
Apr 93	20.60	-0.05	Apr 93	20.60	-0.05	Apr 93	20.60	-0.05	Apr 93	20.60
May 93	20.65	-0.05	May 93	20.65	-0.05	May 93	20.65	-0.05	May 93	20.65
Jun 93	20.70	-0.05	Jun 93	20.70	-0.05	Jun 93	20.70	-0.05	Jun 93	20.70
Jul 93	20.75	-0.05	Jul 93	20.75	-0.05	Jul 93	20.75	-0.05	Jul 93	20.75
Aug 93	20.80	-0.05	Aug 93	20.80	-0.05	Aug 93	20.80	-0.05	Aug 93	20.80
Sep 93	20.85	-0.05	Sep 93	20.85	-0.05	Sep 93	20.85	-0.05	Sep 93	20.85
Oct 93	20.90	-0.05	Oct 93	20.90	-0.05	Oct 93	20.90	-0.05	Oct 93	20.90
Nov 93	20.95	-0.05	Nov 93	20.95	-0.05	Nov 93	20.95	-0.05	Nov 93	20.95
Dec 93	21.00	-0.05	Dec 93	21.00	-0.05	Dec 93	21.00	-0.05	Dec 93	21.00
Jan 94	21.05	-0.05	Jan 94	21.05	-0.05	Jan 94	21.05	-0.05	Jan 94	21.05
Feb 94	21.10	-0.05	Feb 94	21.10	-0.05	Feb 94	21.10	-0.05	Feb 94	21.10
Mar 94	21.15	-0.05	Mar 94	21.15	-0.05	Mar 94	21.15	-0.05	Mar 94	21.15
Apr 94	21.20	-0.05	Apr 94	21.20	-0.05	Apr 94	21.20	-0.05	Apr 94	21.20
May 94	21.25	-0.05	May 94	21.25	-0.05	May 94	21.25	-0.05	May 94	21.25
Jun 94	21.30	-0.05	Jun 94	21.30	-0.05	Jun 94	21.30	-0.05	Jun 94	21.30
Jul 94	21.35	-0.05	Jul 94	21.35	-0.05	Jul 94	21.35	-0.05	Jul 94	21.35
Aug 94	21.40	-0.05	Aug 94	21.40	-0.05	Aug 94	21.40	-0.05	Aug 94	21.40
Sep 94	21.45	-0.05	Sep 94	21.45	-0.05	Sep 94	21.45	-0.05	Sep 94	21.45
Oct 94	21.50	-0.05	Oct 94	21.50	-0.05	Oct 94	21.50	-0.05	Oct 94	21.50
Nov 94	21.55	-0.05	Nov 94	21.55	-0.05	Nov 94	21.55	-0.05	Nov 94	21.55
Dec 94	21.60	-0.05	Dec 94	21.60	-0.05	Dec 94	21.60	-0.05	Dec 94	21.60
Jan 95	21.65	-0.05	Jan 95	21.65	-0.05	Jan 95	21.65	-0.05	Jan 95	21.65
Feb 95	21.70	-0.05	Feb 95	21.70	-0.05	Feb 95	21.70	-0.05	Feb 95	21.70
Mar 95	21.75	-0.05	Mar 95	21.75	-0.05	Mar 95	21.75	-0.05	Mar 95	21.75
Apr 95	21.80	-0.05	Apr 95	21.80	-0.05	Apr 95	21.80	-0.05	Apr 95	21.80
May 95	21.85	-0.05	May 95	21.85	-0.05	May 95	21.85	-0.05	May 95	21.85
Jun 95	21.90	-0.05	Jun 95	21.90	-0.05	Jun 95	21.90	-0.05	Jun 95	21.90
Jul 95	21.95	-0.05	Jul 95	21.95	-0.05	Jul 95	21.95	-0.05	Jul 95	21.95
Aug 95	22.00	-0.05	Aug 95	22.00	-0.05	Aug 95	22.00	-0.05	Aug 95	22.00
Sep 95	22.05	-0.05	Sep 95	22.05	-0.05	Sep 95	22.05	-0.05	Sep 95	22.05
Oct 95	22.10	-0.05	Oct 95	22.10	-0.05	Oct 95	22.10	-0.05	Oct 95	22.10
Nov 95	22.15	-0.05	Nov 95	22.15	-0.05	Nov 95	22.15	-0.05	Nov 95	22.15
Dec 95	22.20	-0.05	Dec 95	22.20	-0.05	Dec 95	22.20	-0.05	Dec 95	22.20
Jan 96	22.25	-0.05	Jan 96	22.25	-0.05	Jan 96	22.25	-0.05	Jan 96	22.25
Feb 96	22.30	-0.05	Feb 96	22.30	-0.05	Feb 96	22.30	-0.05	Feb 96	22.30
Mar 96	22.35	-0.05	Mar 96	22.35	-0.05	Mar 96	22.35	-0.05	Mar 96	22.35
Apr 96	22.40	-0.05	Apr 96	22.40	-0.05	Apr 96	22.40	-0.05	Apr 96	22.40
May 96	22.45	-0.05	May 96	22.45	-0.05	May 96	22.45	-0.05	May 96	22.45
Jun 96	22.50	-0.05	Jun 96	22.50	-0.05	Jun 96	22.50	-0.05	Jun 96	22.50
Jul 96	22.55	-0.05	Jul 96	22.55	-0.05	Jul 96	22.55	-0.05	Jul 96	22.55
Aug 96	22.60	-0.05	Aug 96	22.60	-0.05	Aug 96	22.60	-0.05	Aug 96	22.60
Sep 96	22.65	-0.05	Sep 96	22.65	-0.05	Sep 96	22.65	-0.05	Sep 96	22.65
Oct 96	22.70	-0.05	Oct 96	22.70	-0.05	Oct 96	22.70	-0.05	Oct 96	22.70
Nov 96	22.75	-0.05	Nov 96	22.75	-0.05	Nov 96	22.75	-0.05	Nov 96	22.75
Dec 96	22.80	-0.05	Dec 96	22.80	-0.05	Dec 96	22.80	-0.05	Dec 96	22.80
Jan 97	22.85	-0.05	Jan 97	22.85	-0.05	Jan 97	22.85	-0.05	Jan 97	22.85
Feb 97	22.90	-0.05	Feb 97	22.90	-0.05	Feb 97	22.90	-0.05	Feb 97	22.90
Mar 97	22.95	-0.05	Mar 97	22.95	-0.05	Mar 97	22.95	-0.05	Mar 97	22.95
Apr 97	23.00	-0.05	Apr 97	23.00	-0.05	Apr 97	23.00	-0.05	Apr 97	23.00
May 97	23.05	-0.05	May 97	23.05	-0.05	May 97	23.05	-0.05	May 97	23.05
Jun 97	23.10	-0.05	Jun 97	23.10	-0.05	Jun 97	23.10	-0.05	Jun 97	23.10
Jul 97	23.15	-0.05	Jul 97	23.15	-0.05	Jul 97	23.15	-0.05	Jul 97	23.15
Aug 97	23.20	-0.05	Aug 97	23.20	-0.05	Aug 97	23.20	-0.05	Aug 97	23.20
Sep 97	23.25	-0.05	Sep 97	23.25	-0.05	Sep 97	23.25	-0.05	Sep 97	23.25
Oct 97	23.30	-0.05	Oct 97	23.30	-0.05	Oct 97	23.30	-0.05	Oct 97	23.30
Nov 97	23.35	-0.05	Nov 97	23.35	-0.05	Nov 97	23.35	-0.05	Nov 97	23.35
Dec 97	23.40	-0.05	Dec 97	23.40	-0.05	Dec 97	23.40	-0.05	Dec 97	23.40
Jan 98	23.45	-0.05	Jan 98	23.45	-0.05	Jan 98	23.45	-0.05	Jan 98	23.45
Feb 98	23.50	-0.05	Feb 98	23.50	-0.05	Feb 98	23.50	-0.05	Feb 98	23.50
Mar 98	23.55	-0.05	Mar 98	23.55	-0.05	Mar 98	23.55	-0.05	Mar 98	23.55
Apr 98	23.60	-0.05	Apr 98	23.60	-0.05	Apr 98	23.60	-0.05	Apr 98	23.60
May 98	23.65	-0.05	May 98	23.65	-0.05	May 98	23.65	-0.05	May 98	23.65
Jun 98	23.70	-0.05	Jun 98	23.70	-0.05	Jun 98	23.70	-0.05	Jun 98	23.70
Jul 98	23.75	-0.05	Jul 98	23.75	-0.05	Jul 98	23.75	-0.05	Jul 98	23.75
Aug 98	23.80	-0.05	Aug 98	23.80	-0.05	Aug 98	23.80	-0.05	Aug 98	23.80
Sep 98	23.85	-0.05								

Portfolio

From the Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Platinum	Industrial	100.00
2	Com Union	Insurance	100.00
3	Allied Colloids	Chemicals	100.00
4	Boots	Pharmaceuticals	100.00
5	Hadfield Inds	Industrial	100.00
6	Penins	Industrial	100.00
7	MFI	Retail	100.00
8	Kwik Save	Food	100.00
9	Laporte	Food	100.00
10	Swansea	Food	100.00
11	Woolworth	Food	100.00
12	Chadbury Sch	Food	100.00
13	Jersey Milk	Food	100.00
14	Johnnie Walker	Food	100.00
15	Electromech	Electronics	100.00
16	Electron	Electronics	100.00
17	Hughes Tech	Electronics	100.00
18	Geac	Software	100.00
19	Stouff Estate	Real Estate	100.00
20	Heavit	Real Estate	100.00
21	Archer (A)	Real Estate	100.00
22	Midlands Elec	Electricity	100.00
23	Br Polychem	Chemicals	100.00
24	Warrington	Food	100.00
25	Mark Spencer	Food	100.00
26	Lloyds Abbey	Insurance	100.00
27	Wassell	Food	100.00
28	Warrington	Food	100.00
29	Warrington	Food	100.00
30	Warrington	Food	100.00
31	Warrington	Food	100.00
32	Warrington	Food	100.00
33	Warrington	Food	100.00
34	Warrington	Food	100.00
35	Warrington	Food	100.00
36	Warrington	Food	100.00
37	Warrington	Food	100.00
38	Warrington	Food	100.00
39	Warrington	Food	100.00
40	Warrington	Food	100.00
41	Warrington	Food	100.00
42	Warrington	Food	100.00
43	Warrington	Food	100.00
44	Warrington	Food	100.00

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr A. Spedding, of Chester, and Mr A. Harries, of Nottingham, each receive £1,000.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152
153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176
177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104
105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136
137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152

The recession has put restaurants, hotels and shops on the market. **Rodney Hobson** looks at some of the lots at auction tomorrow



Dating from the early 1800s: Old Drapery Stores



Renovated: Blue Bell and Riverside Restaurant



Shut, now for sale: Scupper's Restaurant and Wine Bar



Early sale: Tudor Cottage Restaurant and Tea Rooms

Business opportunities are becoming increasingly available for the brave — and the astute. The recession that has hit retail premises, restaurants and other leisure operations is bringing property on to the market at bargain prices.

Breweries are having to sell premises because of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry, so more licensed premises are now available.

Christie & Co, the auctioneer, has put a record 30 properties into the sale it is holding at the Kensington Hilton in London tomorrow. Although some deals will be done privately before the auction, a variety of properties will be for sale.

Among tomorrow's more romantically styled properties is the Old Drapery Stores Hotel and Restaurant at Middle Wallop, Hampshire. This property is on the A343 between Andover and Salisbury. Winchester is only 12 miles away and Southampton 15.

The building is understood to date from the early 1800s and was originally a drapers'. The counter is now used as a bar service. The

Bargains under the hammer

adjoining property was recently acquired and converted into a three-bedroom cottage for the owners. A lawn runs down to the Wallop brook, a trout water.

One property that has been sold before the auction is the Tudor Cottage Restaurant and Tea Rooms at Petworth, West Sussex.

'The mortgagees always prefer to sell a business as a going concern'

about 15 miles from Chichester. The building is listed grade II and is part-timbered with a day-tiled roof. The property has already ceased trading as a restaurant. Another business that has ceased trading is the stores at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. Like many of the properties

on offer, it has a drinks licence. The store, which is listed grade II and is believed to date back to 1730, has heavy beamed ceilings and exposed stone walls.

Hemington Court Hotel and Restaurant in Leicestershire is being sold by the mortgagees after ceasing trading. The mortgagees are also seeking buyers for a newagent's, confectioner's and tobacconist's shop in Lincoln, the Sunup cash-and-carry in Pinner, Middlesex, the Hare and Hounds free house in Harlow, Essex, and Sullivan's restaurant in West Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Scupper's Restaurant and Wine Bar at Cowling in the Aire Valley, North Yorkshire, is a closed three-storey detached property in the auction. It has seating for 50.

Properties offered by mortgagees or receivers have not necessarily ceased trading. Paul Simpson, at Christie's auction division, says:

"The mortgagees will always prefer to sell a business as a going concern because it commands a higher value. Sometimes the mortgagee will continue running the business on behalf of the mortgagee so that it can be sold as a going concern."

He says the number of businesses being auctioned because they have failed has increased.

Mr Simpson says: "Sometimes the owner does a runner. The condition of the premises varies and the prices achieved reflect the circumstances. For those properties that have ceased trading, it is possible to buy at bargain prices."

In contrast, some premises are in particularly attractive condition. The Blue Bell and Riverside Restaurant at Driffield, north Humberside, has been renovated to a high standard and can seat 80.

The New Saagar Tandoori Restaurant at Harefield, Middlesex, ceased trading at the end of June but the decor and furnishings are of

a high standard and would suit any style of operation. The premises include seating for 50 and four-bedroom accommodation for the owners.

However, had the recession, there are apparently many potential buyers who believe they can succeed where others failed. Mr Simpson says: "Where people bought at the height of the market the business may have been performing quite well but the problem has been servicing the debt. We have many clients who buy businesses that have ceased trading, build them up and come back to us to sell them as going concerns three or four years later."

He stresses that potential buyers should do their homework thoroughly. Because the highest bidder is legally committed to the purchase when the hammer falls, he says buyers should ensure that finance is in place, that a full structural survey

has been carried out and professional advice taken. Buyers should also check whether a drinks licence is transferable to them. Premises can be inspected by prior arrangement and parties of buyers are taken round when there is sufficient demand.

Those unable to attend a London

'We hope purchasers will bid in the room as this is where the real bargains are'

auction can arrange to bid by telephone from any Christie office at 48 hours' notice.

Mr Simpson says: "While many lots are sold prior to auction, we are hoping that purchasers will have the confidence to bid in the room as this is where the real bargains are to be had."

However, an offer in advance can be worth making. Particularly in the case of a forced sale, a vendor may prefer to accept a definite offer rather than take a chance at the auction. Although reserve prices are normally not disclosed to bidders, an auctioneer will usually give a guide price. The decision on whether to accept is the vendor's, not the auctioneer's.

One of the more ambitious projects in tomorrow's sale is the Belmont Lodge Hotel, Golf and Country Club, near Hereford. The lodge is in an elevated position above the river Wye and several of the fairways run parallel to the river.

The house, a Georgian grade II listed stone and tile building, was built in 1788 by James Wyatt. Part is in need of renovation and has structural defects. The lodge has 30 bedrooms with en suite bathrooms constructed in 1988 and the professional golf shop is of timber frame under a slate roof.

Although the property is being sold on the instructions of the joint administrative receivers, Mr Simpson is confident of reaching more than £1 million.

Office rents are now falling outside the London area, while the development of new offices in the capital's oversupplied market is tailing off, according to two surveys, *Rodney Hobson* writes.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks says the potent combination of high availability and severe shortages of finance for speculative development has brought reality to the central London market.

The report says that in the past year developers of proposed London schemes have removed more than 20 million sq ft of space from their programmes. Developers are appreciating that many schemes, often with existing planning permission, will not materialise.

Peter Evans, the research director, says: "This is particularly true at the top end of the market in terms of size. More than half the 65 schemes we examined of 50,000 sq ft and over, which were previously due for completion by the end of 1995,

Case of the vanishing office blocks

Rent slump forces speculators to rethink their development plans

have now been delayed indefinitely. These amounted to a total development potential of about six million sq ft."

Another third of the potential floorspace analysed has been postponed until after 1995. Only 11 per cent, 1.3 million sq ft, still has a completion date in the first half of this decade.

Philip Gray, the marketing director for the West End division, says: "Clearly the development tap has now

been turned off, although it may prove that in parts of the West End market developers have over-reacted, particularly for the larger developments. The level of development activity projected up to the mid 1990s suggests that shortages of quality new accommodation could appear in certain segments of the central market within the next two years.

"Many developers, however, will not be able to react

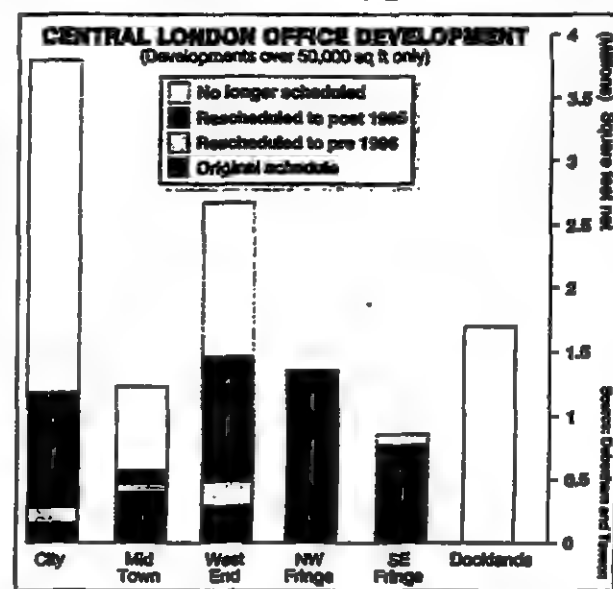
quickly enough because of funding problems."

Evidence of falling rents and increasing incentive packages spreading from the South-east to regional centres comes from Weatherall Green & Smith. The average decline in rents for the 40 office locations surveyed in the year to March was 8.5 per cent, against 4.5 per cent in the year to September 1991.

Weatherall says there has been little rental movement since March except in Aberdeen.

The survey says the wide variations in headline rents reflects the package of incentives behind individual deals rather than location.

Although incentives are available outside the South-east, they have been limited because there is less oversupply. Weatherall says there is a shortage of new space in the centres of Birmingham and Manchester. About half of all new vacant space in Birmingham is under offer.



Rents had fallen on average by up to 7 per cent in the Midlands and in the South-west. In Liverpool, however, a prime rent of £12.50 a sq ft was established, and rents in Leeds also rose.

The cost differential between London and the re-

gions has narrowed and there are signs of a decrease in the number of businesses considering decentralising. Existing leases are difficult to dispose of and the depressed housing market makes it difficult for employees to move without financial loss.

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□ The Mid Dorset Golf Club, nine miles west of Blandford Forum, is being sold by Humbers Leisure on the instructions of receivers. The guide price is £1.75 million, but separate offers will be considered for the 18-hole course, 40 acres of land and a thatched farm house with a seven-acre paddock.

□ Northgate House, Colchester, has been let to Customs and Excise by the British Coal Pension Fund.

□ The freehold of 24-28 Bloomsbury Way, central London, has been bought for French institutional funds for just over £11 million.

□ B&Q, the DIY chain, is to build a 45,000 sq ft store with a garden centre on part of the former Wandsworth gas work site in south London.

□ The Prudential has made a forward commitment to buy a freehold industrial investment at Oldfields Business Park, Stoke on Trent, for £3.9 million.

□ A Sunley Holdings subsidiary has pre-let the grade I listed mansion at Godsmerton Park near Canterbury, once owned by Jane Austen's brother, to Infocheck, the international corporate reference agency, as its headquarters and training centre. The rent is more than £120,000 a year.

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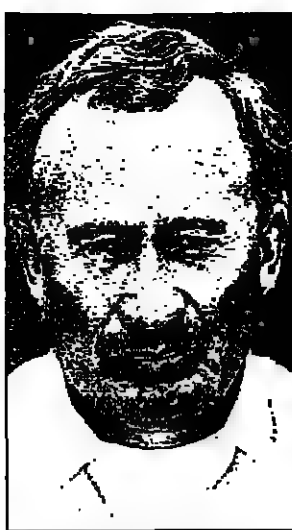
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Gower needs to believe in another comeback



Fletcher offered hope

With one bombshell barely absorbed, David Gower must wait until the weekend to calm fears of another. His county contract is about to expire and the Hampshire committee will decide on Friday whether, and for how long, he should be re-engaged.

As Gower has made it clear that he has shelved retirement thoughts and would like to play for another three years, a contract offer seems mere routine. But after the latest step in his hokey-cokey relationship with the England team, he is probably not over-confident.

Not the least reason for sympathising with Gower in his latest predicament is that it

has effectively put him out of work at a very inconvenient time. Mike Gatting's pockets are still bulging with krugers and Neil Fairbrother has had the security of an England winter contract.

Both will now be a minimum of £25,000 richer through selection for the tour of India, while the man they are keeping out did not feature in past rebellion and is not seen to be worthy of future encouragement.

So Gower gets nothing and reels towards his wedding day still unsure if he will have a day job to return to next summer.

Money, however, would not have been the first thing which entered his head when he put down the phone on

ALAN LEE

Monday morning after Graham Gooch's apologetic call. His feelings went something like this: "I was mentally miles away, wondering what on earth I had done to deserve being judged suddenly incapable."

Not, as it happens, this week's quote. Those words were Gower's reflection on the corresponding day, two years ago, when a similar call, this time from Ted Dexter, informed him that, in addition to the loss of the England captaincy, he had also lost his place in the party to tour the Caribbean. It is, you see, a familiarly tortured road that

Gower is confronting. And he might ponder the paradox of a man who has been the very portrait of loyalty, dignity and charm, being so regularly treated callously by those who sit in judgment.

Gower's popularity, it often seems, is constant and unanimous with everybody bar the England selectors. I expect my mailbox this week to be dominated by letters of outrage over his treatment: it always has been whenever England have dismissed him.

This time, the indignation will surely focus on the fact that almost everybody in the game knew of Gower's fate

before he did. And affection for him is not confined to those outside the game.

Last Friday, at the Cricket Writers' Club dinner, an award was initiated in memory of the late Peter Smith, its recipient to be somebody who has given outstanding service to cricket.

Gower was the overwhelming choice. It will probably be in the media that Gower earns a living on retirement, and unlike some former players, he will be welcomed. But in the meantime, a man cannot live on love and affection and for the unimpeachable time in the turbulent career of a superficially tranquil man, Gower

finds himself at a crossroads.

In struggling to justify his first landmark decision as England manager, Keith Fletcher offered Gower hope, albeit illogically. Having said he was disappointed on grounds of age, Fletcher added that this did not mean he might not be chosen again next summer. By that time, of course, he will have had another birthday but an Ashes series would lack something for his absence.

Gower must continue to believe in next summer, for if he does not there will be no point in him signing whatever new contract may be offered. International cricket is his lifeblood. Once again, he is in urgent need of a donor.

BOXING

McKenzie ready for hectic month

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DUKE McKenzie has one month to prepare for the World Boxing Organisation super-bantamweight title bout that could give him the distinction of being the first Briton to win three titles at different weights this century.

He will be boxing at the Lewisham Theatre on October 15 but after his performance against Fear Buckley, of Birmingham, on Monday night at York Hall it is clear that he has a month of hard work ahead of him. He was boxing for the first time after being knocked out in the first round by Rafael Del Valle, of Puerto Rico, last May and he did not look as sharp as he can be. In the first round there were more misses than hits and it was only after he had floored Buckley in the third that he opened up with good punches to the body and head, forcing Buckley to retire at the end of the round.

Strangely enough, McKenzie's manager, Mickey Duff, thought it was a very good performance. "He boxed beautifully," Duff said. "That guy was cagey. You have to throw six shots to land two."

Far from thinking that McKenzie was at last showing his age — 29 — and the effects of that knockout by Del Valle, Duff believes that he can lift a third world title and go on boxing for another two years.

McKenzie was more realistic. "Comeback fights are hard," he said. "Buckley only came to survive. Guys like that make you look ordinary, but when there's a championship fight I'll be a lot better." He knows also that his opponent, Jesse Benavides, of Mexico, will be a lot harder than Buckley.

"Benavides is a Kronk fighter. That means he's very good, and he's also a southpaw," McKenzie said. "It won't be an easy fight, if I have to touch down I'll get straight up again. I've got to win the championship if I'm going to make some real money."

It was Duff's turn to be realistic. "He won't make fortunes," Duff said. "The Lewisham Theatre only holds 900, but if he fights for two more years he could net £100,000, which could give him an income of £10,000 a year."

James Cook, of Peckham, who was also having his first comeback contest after a first-round knockout, beat Tony Booth, of Sheffield, easily, winning all eight rounds. He will now most likely challenge for the European super-middleweight title he lost to Frank Nicotras, of France, last April. Nicotras has vacated the title.

PARALYMPIC GAMES

Flood and Holmes net gold

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN BARCELONA

CHRIS Holmes and Tara Flood will not be popular in Barcelona. Yesterday both swimmers beat Spanish rivals to win gold. For both it was their fourth medal of the Games and both ended the day as Paralympic champions and world record holders.

For Holmes it was his fourth gold medal and with three events still to come he is fast becoming the Mark Spitz of the Paralympics. In the 200m backstroke he soon wiped out the challenge of Juan Diego Gil, five years his junior at only 15, to finish eight seconds ahead in 2min 33.14sec, taking almost four seconds off his own world record.

Holmes has much to celebrate. A first-year politics student at King's College, he left Cambridge during the summer term to train with the Olympic squad in Birmingham alongside Nick Gillingham. Trying to study privately around his practice schedule he managed a 2:1 in his first year exams to go with his collection of gold medals.

For Holmes's great friend and room mate, Tim Reddish, the Paralympics are turning into something of a nightmare. In the 50m freestyle, Reddish, who is partially sighted, thought he heard a false start whistle as he dived in, only to discover it was a whistle from the crowd. As Reddish stopped, Holmes accelerated away to win the gold and set a world record. Last night he withdrew injured from the 200m final.

Reeve appointed the new Warwickshire captain

Twose and Penney prove value of Lloyd's efforts

BY RICHARD STREETON

LORD'S (first day of four): Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 319 for seven wickets against Middlesex

ROGER Twose and Trevor Penney, two of the county's emerging batsmen, provided the main resistance yesterday as the Warwickshire innings progressed in fits and starts. Half the side was out for 165 but the Middlesex bowlers were unable to press home their advantage. They also shared 27 no-balls, with Tufnell, who had 11, the leading culprit.

Inevitably, though, the main talking point remained the Warwickshire announcement that Dermot Reeve would replace Andy Lloyd as the county captain next season. Lloyd, who has a year of his playing contract to go, is

understandably disappointed. He has accepted, however, the view of the cricket committee, chaired by Dennis Amiss, that it is time for a change.

It is believed that a decisive factor in his thinking was that Lloyd's own form this season has not justified an automatic place in the side as much as any dissatisfaction with his captaincy. Warwickshire hope that Lloyd, 35, will score more runs without the burden of leadership.

Lloyd has led Warwickshire since 1988, when he steered them to sixth place in the championship after they had been fifteenth the previous season. Since then, they have been eighth, fifth and second and, this year, should finish near the top. In 1989, they won the NatWest Trophy.

It has been an acceptable record for somebody who took over at a time when the county was in the throes of several upheavals behind the scenes.

In the past two years, though, Lloyd has more or less had a free hand and the side has seldom performed less than consistently. Lloyd's own batting, though, has clearly waned. He has contributed much this season in one-day games but averages 25.03 for 826 runs in the championship, in which he has not made a hundred for two years.

Meanwhile, Reeve, the previous vice-captain, is a flexible thinker about both his own play and the game and has obviously revelled in the occasional chances he has had to be in charge. He is 29 and closer in every respect to the younger members of the side than his predecessor. Tim Munton becomes the new vice-captain.

Reeve yesterday praised Lloyd's unselfish approach to his own batting and acknowledged the help he had received from Lloyd in developing his own cricket. Lloyd has always

been good with young players and Twose and Penney, both 24, underlined the point on this occasion. When the left-handed Twose was fifth out, moving forward against Emburey, Lloyd greeted him on the pavilion steps with the award of his county cap.

Twose has now scored nearly 1,300 runs and averages almost 40 this summer. Once again, he struck the ball with a succession of firm, upright strokes. After Moles was held at third slip, Lloyd drove and pulled freely to give Twose his main support before he was stumped off Tufnell.

Ostler and Reeve failed but Penney settled into a sound, stylish innings and, after three-and-a-half hours, was undefeated when daylight brought the close eight overs early. Tufnell and Emburey could turn the ball only slowly. Both were given a lot of work, a foretaste of the winter slog ahead in India.



Hitting the ball fair and square: Evans nears his century at Trent Bridge yesterday

Richards stands in way as runners-up place beckons

BY IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Glamorgan with 6 second-innings wickets in hand lead Kent by 115 runs

AT THE start of this exceptional season of county cricket, Kent would have seemed most glad to finish runners up in the championship. That they should achieve, assuming, if assumptions are ever advisable in this game, that they beat Glamorgan today.

They do have the small matter of ridding themselves of Richards first. Perhaps assumptions should not be countenanced while he is still at the wicket.

The bald facts though are that his side lead Kent by only 115 runs on a pitch giving succour to the seamers, and two days still remain.

That Kent achieved a first-innings lead of 61 was almost entirely because of the partnership between Taylor and Marsh, 113 in 53 overs. Here were two batsmen treating this as the four-day contest it was supposed to be. The number of players in this match with cause to feel aggrieved at not

being included in England's A party are legion, but these two more than most. They do not often catch the eye, but they are among the more dependable of county cricketers.

The Kent batsman in recent years upon whom Taylor could have modelled his game was Bob Wilson, left-handed though he was. His cricket was played before he was 19, and from that viewpoint Taylor's career began at just the wrong time. In another era they might have both played for England.

Taylor is averaging more than 50 this season, although curiously, he has made only one first-class century. It would not be fair to say he got himself out yesterday — he never does — but this was the tenth occasion he has reached a half-century without progressing a great deal further.

Thomas ran one away from him and Richards, eyesight seemingly unimpaired in middle age, took the catch with sublime ease at first slip.

Still the ball was moving around if not as extravagantly

as on Monday. Richards held another slip catch, this off Dale's military medium, to account for Marsh, and now it was a matter of whether Kent would collect a second bonus batting point.

They did so through an unlikely last-wicket partnership between Davis and Igglesden, 26 runs made with unexpected vigour.

Glamorgan could hardly bat again as ineffectually as on the first day and indeed they did not. True, there was an element of desperation about the way Morris shaped to hook Igglesden, the ball looping up to mid-wicket. After that, James and Dale eked out a second-wicket partnership of 60 that gave them the lead.

Dale is in prime form. He could not, however take his half-century any further. A top-edged square cut off Fleming was taken at first slip and Maynard soon followed, brilliantly held by Ward at cover off a slower ball from Ealham.

Richards, though, was still there at the close and starting to bat ominously well.

Lancashire fall to Salisbury

THREE members of the England A team attack for Australia this winter celebrated their selection in some style yesterday. Ian Salisbury, the Sussex leg spinner leading the way with a devastating spell against Lancashire at Old Trafford (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

Salisbury, 22, who is enjoying his most prolific season, wrecked the middle order by taking five for ten in 32 balls and ended the day with five for 27. Lancashire faced up to the prospect of overwhelming defeat. At 170 for nine they are 393 in arrears.

Mark Ilett, the Essex left-arm, had a career-best return of six for 87 at Derby where the day's highlight was a brilliant 135 in 156 balls from Chris Adams, which enabled Derbyshire to leave the champions 440 to win. On a pitch which has lost much of its menace they have reached 46-0.

There were five wickets in the day for Somerset's fast bowler Andrew Caddick at Taunton where Durham followed on despite a 97-ball hundred from Ian Smith.

Spirited resistance by Evans denies Surrey

BY JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Surrey, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 116 runs behind Nottinghamshire

IF Nottinghamshire find themselves in the money as the result of their county championship campaign, they could well drink a toast to Kevin Evans. Yesterday, he followed his three wickets in Surrey's first innings by resisting allcomers for 4½ hours, scoring his second century for Nottinghamshire — his first at Trent Bridge — and steering his county to a most unlikely lead of 150.

Nicknamed "Ghost", Evans is the son of a player who rarely hogs, or even seeks the lime-light. He has, for instance, bowled only one no-ball in more than 500 overs this season. A troublesome knee has kept him out of the first team for a couple of weeks, but he has stolen back into the fray and yesterday helped add 198 runs for the last four Nottinghamshire wickets.

It had looked for a time as though the early morning movement off the seam gener-

ated by Martin Bicknell and Feltham might send Nottinghamshire down the same rocky path which saw Surrey lose seven wickets before lunch on Monday. But they withdrew from the precipice. First, Chris Lewis, who like Evans is having a fine all-round match, counter-attacked on the charge after two early wickets had gone for the addition of 35. Then Evans completed the recovery, sharing a ninth-wicket stand of 124 with Bramhall which has ensured an uphill struggle for Surrey.

Evans's 104 was a career-best score and it was made in the face of some excellent bowling by Bicknell. In common with others, Bicknell also experienced a certain amount of difficulty with Lewis, who was first to overcome the morning hoodoo which has beset this match, and he did so by judicious stroke-play.

Lewis was the fourth batsman to fall before lunch, however, which was taken with Nottinghamshire on 209 for seven. Only one more wicket fell before lunch and tea while 97 were added and Evans piled his craft.

Britannia Assurance county championship

Somerset v Durham

TAUNTON (second day of four): Durham, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 217 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Somerset.

SOMERSET: First Innings
A N Hayhurst c Scott b Hughes 102
M Llewellyn c Daley b Henderson 50
R J Harder c Henderson b Smith 126
C J Tarrant c Pether b Brown 124
R J Turner c Pether b Brown 124
G D Jones c Daley b Smith 33
R P Small c Smith b Hughes 0
A R Caddick c Dale b Smith 1
A P van Troost not out 0
Extras (lb 5, w 4) 9
Total 394
Score after 100 overs: 322-7
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-85, 3-265, 4-287, 5-375, 6-452, 7-450, 8-484, 9-514
BOWLING: Somerset 11-2-45-0; Brown 22-1-31-52; Henderson 23-5-110-1; Hughes 32-5-112-4; Graveney 12-1-48-0; Berridge 14-5-51-1; Smith 21-4-102-2

Notts v Surrey

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four)

Surrey, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 116 runs behind Nottinghamshire. Surrey need 217 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Somerset.

NOTTS: First Innings
P R Ford c Stewart b M P Bicknell 0
M Solly b Bicknell 0
M J Richardson b M P Bicknell 21
M A Crawley b Bicknell 21
C J Archer b Pether 22
C C Lewis c Stewart b M P Bicknell 22
P Evans c Stewart b Pether 22
S J E Brown b Bicknell 12
D S Pether b Bicknell 12
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 2) 6
Total 219
Score after 100 overs: 275-8
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-85, 3-265, 4-287, 5-375, 6-452, 7-450, 8-484, 9-514
BOWLING: Nottinghamshire 11-2-45-0; Brown 22-1-31-52; Henderson 23-5-110-1; Hughes 32-5-112-4; Graveney 12-1-48-0; Berridge 14-5-51-1; Smith 21-4-102-2

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

1st Innings

1st Innings: Somerset 11-2-45-0; Brown 22-1-31-52; Henderson 23-5-110-1; Hughes 32-5-112-4; Graveney 12-1-48-0; Berridge 14-5-51-1; Smith 21-4-102-2

2nd Innings

2nd Innings: Somerset 11-2-45-0; Brown 22-1-31-52; Henderson 23-5-110-1; Hughes 32-5-112-4; Graveney 12-1-48-0; Berridge 14-5-51-1; Smith 21-4-102-2

2nd Innings

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Taylor looks forward to England's renaissance



FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN SANTANDER

GRAHAM Taylor yesterday opened the second half of his national managerial career with a significant change of emphasis. England, he promises, will play with a new sense of positive adventure until his contract is scheduled to end after the World Cup finals in the United States in 1994.

The policy is to start here tonight, when England will line up against Spain with a broad attack featuring four forwards, and will continue throughout a World Cup qualifying competition which begins at Wembley stadium against Norway next month.

That, anyway, is the theory. Taylor has so regularly contradicted himself that there may be before long another shift in his plans. Nevertheless, his intentions are refreshing in the light of England's negative contribution to the European championship in June, when they scored one goal in three tries.

"The major disappointment so far has been the fact that we have not been positive enough," he conceded yesterday. "You need winning tactics and you need entertaining tactics. Generally, we've got the winning tactics right and, if there is a choice, that is the way you would want it."

"It is difficult to get the right balance but clean sheets are

only of any use when you put one in at the other end. We had two goalless draws during the European championship and where did that get us?"

Instead of relying almost wholly on the instincts of Gary Lineker, who scored more than a third of England's 34 goals in the last two years, Taylor has spread the responsibility along a wide front line. Intriguingly, it includes not Brian Deane, as had been supposed, but Nigel Clough. Deane would be ideally suited to the long-ball game, a system which Taylor unequivocally indicated he would in fact be employing. His declaration provoked criticism when it was uttered three months ago and he now

	Age	Goals	Cls
D Woods (Sheff Wed)	32	34	0
L Dixon (Aston)	28	12	1
S Pearce (North For)	30	50	2
F Rice (Man Utd)	24	0	0
D Walker (Sunderland)	25	47	0
M Wright (Liverpool)	29	42	1
D White (Man Coy)	24	8	6
D Platt (Aston)	25	32	11
M Clough (Notm For)	25	7	0
A Shearer (Blackburn)	22	3	1
A Simon (QPR)	26	6	0
Substitutes: to be announced			

suggests that he was not thinking clearly and rationally at the time.

He claims he was bemused by Sweden's daring approach during the decisive 2-1 defeat. "I had been led to believe that you couldn't use four forwards

in internationals and yet I had just seen a side do that to put us out of the championship."

Thus, England are to adopt their conqueror's ways. Instead of selecting Deane, which might have attracted further unfavourable comments, Taylor has recalled one of the three players who were inactive throughout the whole tournament. Clough, in an article published in a local newspaper, expressed his frustration about being left on the sidelines.

Like the national manager, he professed yesterday that his words were misrepresented. Clough even went as far as to persuade the sports editor responsible for his weekly column to contact the Eng-

land manager to clarify and explain the truth of his argument. Evidently, he has been forgiven and the precision of his distribution will be a vital component in the new attacking force.

Clough, like the two players making their first international appearances, has been asked merely to reproduce his club form. Ince, who wins his first cap in midfield, and White, the prolific winger from the other side of Manchester, have so far been outstanding for their respective clubs. On paper, they promise to augment an exciting formation.

Ironically, Spain's manager admires the English way of playing and is designing his

side in the mirror-image. He has picked three members of the team which collected the gold medal in the Olympic Games in Barcelona last month. All three are defenders whose duty will be to restrain two of the Premier League's leading goalscorers, Shearer and White.

Not since 1960 has England been defeated on Spanish soil but Taylor prefers to ignore such statistics. "We mustn't be frightened of losing," he said. "We must start the second phase of my career by not being inhibited."

SPAIN: Zubizarreta (Barcelona), Puyol (Barcelona), Lopez (Atletico Madrid), Schuster (Atletico Madrid), Tost (Atletico Madrid), Michel (Real Madrid), Vazquez (Atletico Madrid), Arto (Barcelona), Martin (Villarreal), Fernandez (Sevilla), Forcades (Espanol)

English football lurches towards another crisis

Kelly fears for future of Premier League

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN SANTANDER

REPRESENTATIVES of six leading clubs will gather today to discuss the preservation of the FA Premier League. During the opening months of the inaugural season, such deep rifts have developed within the new organisation that Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, fears it may become ungovernable.

Almost as soon as he arrived here with the England team on Monday, he learned of the latest constitutional crisis. Eight clubs — Arsenal, Aston Villa, Everton, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, and Queens Park Rangers — had collectively flexed their mus-

cles and rejected the offer from Bess to sponsor the Premier League.

Believing that the blocking vote had been used for the sake of clubs that are backed by rival brewers, the other 14 clubs were incensed. They are convinced not only that their own interests are being ignored but also that there is no longer an acceptable balance of power.

Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, and Peter Robinson, chief executive of Liverpool, were alarmed by the extent of the disunity. They contacted Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, and sug-

gested that a meeting should be urgently convened during which the voice of reason might be heard.

The proposal was immediately accepted. The other clubs involved are likely to include Southampton, Oldham Athletic and probably Sheffield Wednesday as well as either Chelsea or Tottenham Hotspur. Conveniently spread geographically, they represent an appropriate cross-section of the Premier League and the outcome of their talks is critical.

Unless mutual agreement is reached, the complicated constitution of the Premier League will almost certainly

have to be abandoned. If block votes continue to be employed by the eight clubs, the other 14 would be entitled to claim the system is unfair.

Realistically, they can already sense that it is weighed too heavily against them. In that case, there are three alternative solutions to a problem that could have been foreseen when Kelly's blueprint was revealed some 18 months ago. Since then, it has been so diluted as to be virtually unrecognisable.

The Premier League could be run by either a management committee or by the FA. On past evidence, that would be equivalent to sailing in a sea of confusion or drifting aimlessly. The third choice, persistently promoted in these pages, is for a firm and enlightened commissioner to be put in charge.

Chairmen have for so long been justifiably accused of being avaricious, blindly self-interested and egotistical that even the wildest optimist cannot expect 22 of them to act for the benefit of the game as a whole. However honourably, they believe only in their own clubs.

Instead of fighting for the common good, they have arranged themselves into two groups and engaged in an undignified and childish political conflict. The petulance may yet extend as far as to end the courteous custom of inviting opposing directors into the host's boardroom.

Several clubs among the 14 feel so strongly that they are refusing to transfer any of their players to the other eight. For that reason, Crystal Palace were not prepared to allow Geoff Thomas to move to Arsenal, even for an absurdly inflated fee of £3 million.

More ominously, the likes of Derby County, Newcastle United, Sunderland and West Ham United may soon be approached and asked whether they would consider leaving the Football League and forming a separate division of 18 clubs.

As everybody appreciates, should have been the size of the Premier League this season; and that was the figure in Kelly's original concept. He flew home yesterday morning aware that his idea, apart from being extensively altered, has started in such disarray that there can be no guarantee that it will end its first season in one piece.



Familiarisation exercise: Gascoigne getting back in to the England routine during training yesterday

Gascoigne seeks unlikely goal

Santander: For a while here, it has been possible to envisage Paul Gascoigne representing England again (Stuart Jones writes). Reunited at long last with his international colleagues, he has frolicked on the periphery of training sessions and insists that he will soon be able to play a full part for his country.

The prospect is immensely appealing, particularly in view of the lack of invention in England's midfield, but is it a mirage? Gascoigne may habitually defy convention and he could indeed recover from his horrendous knee injuries, but even he may not realistically be expected to reach the peaks he once scaled.

Nobody should question his spirited commitment. Eager to attend both of Lazio's daily practices, he is described by

the manager of his new club, Dino Zoff, as "the ideal patient". Since moving to Rome, he has apparently done everything that has been asked of him and more.

Nobody should doubt his positive approach either. When asked yesterday whether he genuinely feels he will come back as good and as strong a player as he ever was, he responded without hesitation. "Definitely," he said. "I have no doubts about it."

He has lost weight, some 17lb since the summer holidays, and he appears to have gained maturity during his prolonged recuperation. Although he can scarcely wait to resume his career, he appreciates that he cannot afford to rush back, either for his Italian club or subsequently for his country.

He hopes that his first official appearance for Lazio will be against his old club, Tottenham Hotspur, on September 23. The league fixture at home to Genoa four days later may be his first competitive match since he lost his head in last year's FA Cup final.

Yet he could be dogged by the nagging injuries that have delayed his return. He revealed that his latest complaint, a pulled thigh muscle, has troubled him twice before and also that he cannot bend his right leg as much as his left.

He is still not allowed to take part in any physical contact, he cannot strike the ball forcefully with his right foot and he admits that he is well short of the required level of fitness. In spite of his own conviction, the extent of

the psychological damage that may have been caused has yet to be revealed.

That he can seriously consider an international future is a tribute to his courage and seemingly reformed character. As Paul Lake has recently discovered at Manchester City, knee surgery can leave more than a permanent scar. Gascoigne, who specialises in twisting and turning, is likely to be afflicted by the residual effects of his wounds.

He could reappear for England, perhaps in the World Cup qualifying tie at home to San Marino in February, and he promises to play as before. "With a smile on my face." That, at least, will make a change to the image of him crying at the end of the World Cup semi-final two years ago.

Edwards leads search for the common ground between conflicting sides

BY PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United and Liverpool will lead the search for a way out of the impasse which threatens the existence of the FA Premier League. The two have agreed to attend a meeting in Manchester this morning to discuss the breakdown which led to a walk-out at Monday's meeting.

"There has been a lot of muscle-flexing," Martin Edwards, the chairman and chief executive of Manchester United, said yesterday. "And perhaps it was necessary, but hopefully now is the time to sort it out."

United and Liverpool are regarded as the most moderate of the leading clubs, and with Arsenal and Crystal Palace both excluded, the attempt is to bring together the moderates on both sides.

The action of the eight "platinum clubs" in signing their separate agreement with Dorna for advertising boardings, has provoked the most determined reaction so far from the smaller clubs.

"It is a question of seeing whether this group of eight is going to be used as a blocking system in the future to thwart majority wishes," Ian Stott, the chairman of Oldham, said, "or whether it was just to achieve one objective. If they seriously maintain its use on

Monday was a one-off, then we'll have to listen, but we'll still have to see what kind of assurances we get, and that will determine whether we can sort this out as a group."

Some cynics suspect that, having achieved their immediate objective, the big clubs will be in conciliatory mood. Edwards said: "We have clearly got teething problems, but that is not surprising when you look at Wimbledon with a turnover of £1 million and us with £20 million."

Before any consensus can be reached there will be plenty of plain speaking. "What is happening is that in the Founder

Members' Agreement, equal shares of TV income was agreed, along with overseas sales and sponsorship," Edwards said, "then suddenly on the agenda centralised advertising boardings crops up."

"It takes away individual clubs' freedom, it brings in secondary sponsors which devalue your main sponsorship. What is coming next? One kit deal and shirt sponsorship for the whole league?"

"The big clubs have been more disadvantaged by the TV deal, with playing on Sundays and Mondays alienating their supporters, and we've had our sponsorships devalued the most by the switch to satellite TV with its small audiences. That affected the major clubs the most, and now suddenly there are these other issues coming up."

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, responded to the latest Premier League troubles by urging for it to be reduced to 18 clubs. Kelly pointed out that the FA is not the lame duck it might appear. Kelly said: "We have given notice to the Premier League that we want to talk about a reduction to 18 clubs at the earliest opportunity. We want to be assured we are going to reach that target as soon as possible."



Edwards moderate

Davies recaptures confidence

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

LAURA Davies was disappointed not to win the Rail Charity Classic in Springfield, Illinois, on Labor Day on Monday, but losing in a play-off to Nancy Lopez, one of the all-time greats, was no disgrace.

Lopez produced a stunning third and final round of 64, eight under par, to come from three shots behind Davies, the leader after 36 holes. The two tied on 199, 17 under par, one shot ahead of Florence Descamps, the talented Belgian, who had rounds of 66, 66 and 67, but still finished third.

On the 54th hole, Davies, who had started the day a shot ahead of the American trio of Betsy King, Rosie Jones and Michelle McGann, had a 15ft

putt for a birdie three and the 66 that would win her the title. "It looked in all the way," she said, "but broke across the hole and stayed out."

The 18th, a par four of 376 yards, was also the first extra hole and Davies hit what she thought was a perfect seven-iron but the wind caught it and the ball dropped into a bunker, short of the green. She played out to about eight feet and knew she had to hole when Lopez, who was on in two, rolled her 30-foot putt to 18 inches.

It was Lopez's first victory of the year — the 45th of her career — and Davies's second play-off defeat. In June, Anne-Marie Palli, of France, beat the Englishwoman in the ShopRite Classic. Davies,

however, has won in Europe and this latest result confirmed her return to form after a shaky start to the season. "I've got my confidence back," she said, "and I go out there feeling I can do well now."

She flew home yesterday \$41,891 richer — Lopez won \$67,500 — to concentrate her attention on Europe. She starts with the Italian Open next week.

Davies was realistic when it came to assessing the European side's chances against the Americans in the Solheim Cup. "They're very confident, and rightly so," she said. "We're the outsiders and you'd have to be silly to suggest anything else. They'd have to be something like 1-3 on, with us 3-1 against."

Moorhouse lined up for Australian coaching job

ADRIAN Moorhouse, the British gold medal-winner in the 100 metres breaststroke at the Olympic Games in Seoul, is to be interviewed for the position of breaststroke coach at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra (Craig Lord writes).

As a member of the institute squad last year, he can expect to be one of the leading candidates. Moorhouse, 28, would prefer a job helping to develop young talent in this country. The Yorkshireman, who leaves today for a tour of Singapore and Hong Kong, where he will conduct swimming clinics, has made no secret of his desire to put back something back into the sport in Britain.

He believes that the experience gained from ten years of being one of the leading three breaststroke swimmers in the world should not be wasted.

"I'm familiar with the Australian Institute and look forward to talking with them about the job," he said. "Obviously, though, I'm also keen to stay involved in the sport here in Britain."

Moorhouse was persuaded to apply for the post by Terry Gathercole, the present incumbent, who will be retiring for health reasons in December. Rob de Castella, the director of the Australian Institute, said he was keen to talk to Moorhouse but had also noted the swimmer's lack of experience as a coach.

Yorkshire move upsets Close

BY MARTIN SEARBY

YORKSHIRE confirmed last night that Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, would be their next overseas player in succession to Sachin Tendulkar, a decision which left Brian Close considering his future as chairman of the cricket committee.

Despite the general committee asking Close to come up with the names of three bowlers he was forced, on a 4-1 vote, to recommend Richardson, 30, who has played 63 Tests.

"This decision came about through considerations which were purely financial and nothing at all to do with cricket," Close said last night. "It is plain for all to see we need a bowler and, like last year, we have ended up with a

batsman who, as Sachin proved, will not win you trophies in the modern game."

One of the compelling reasons behind Yorkshire's decision is that Yorkshire Television will pay the wages of anybody who falls within their criterion of "a player of international repute". Bowlers such as Kenneth Benjamin, Anderson Cummins and the South African, Craig Matthews, did not qualify.

Sir Lawrence Byford, the county president and chairman, defended the decision. "We have searched the world at great cost to myself to find a bowler and there just isn't one available," he said. Mark Ramprakash, who has paid the penalty for disciplinary problems with Mid-

dlesex by being left out of both England winter tours, is planning a winter of rest and reassessment of his approach to the game.

"I wish people had spoken to me a little bit more through out the season to guide me about the handling of all the things that go with being a Test cricketer," he said. "It would have been nice to have had a mentor."

Jack Russell, the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper, overlooked for the tour of India, also expressed his disappointment. "I know I missed a couple of chances against Pakistan and perhaps fell one per cent off the standard I have set. But I couldn't have batted better this summer," he said.



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Playing for
laughs: Ray
Cooney's
new farce



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WOMEN p5

Mamphela
Ramphela: the
new face of
South Africa



Beethoven jumps into the bathtub

Richard Ingrams tunes in to Radio 3's new commercial rival and finds that snippets of great music rather than long obscure compositions are perfectly acceptable before breakfast

I always thought that the trouble with Radio 3 was not, as some of its critics maintained, that they gave too much time to modern music. (It was true that the late Hans Keller, the noted musicologist, made a noble if utterly misguided attempt to make the British enjoy the music of Schoenberg. But the campaign was long ago abandoned.) No, the trouble with Radio 3 was, and still is, that too much obscure music — ancient and modern — was featured in preference to the really first-rate.

From the broadcaster's point of view, the great thing about classical music is just how much there is of it that is undeniably of the first rank. If you take the complete works merely of the very greatest composers (Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms: all prolific geniuses) you have more than enough music to last you a lifetime without any risk of becoming bored.

Yet all too often one has the impression that the people in charge of Radio 3 are bored. Sometimes it seems as if they will do anything to dig out a recording of some dim old piece of Georg Philipp Telemann or (most annoyingly) an arrangement of a well-known piece by, say, Mozart, done by someone else for an unlikely and unprepossessing combination of instruments.

I remember raising the point recently on Radio 4's *Start the Week*, with John Drummond, the retiring controller of Radio 3. My special concern was the early morning programmes which are, for most of us working folk, the only music we are likely to listen to in the course of a weekday. Even Mr Drummond conceded that a lot of the music was insufficiently remarkable to be listened to first thing in the morning, when what was really wanted by listeners was something rousing like a Haydn symphony or one of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos (so long as it was not played on those awful "authentic" instruments).

However, I have detected little change in the menu since Nicholas Kenyon, took over. Mind you, judging from the correspondence columns in this newspaper and elsewhere, you would be forgiven for thinking that the roof had fallen in.

What changes have in the future about on Radio 3 — and I for one will not mourn the passing of those precious, plummy-voiced BBC announcers who sometimes had difficulty knowing which side of the record to put on — have been made in anticipation of the coming of Classic FM, the new commercial station. On Monday, it finally came on air, with just the sort of rousing thing you want to hear at 6am: Handel's coronation anthem, *Zadok the Priest*. I was prepared to be tolerant after such a good start, especially since Radio 3 does not get going until a good hour later.

Of course the main criticism of Classic FM is that because of its need to carry regular advertisements, it is unable to broadcast full-length symphonies or concertos (at least during the peak morning and early evening periods) and is there-

THE EXPERT VIEW

WHAT does the classical music business think of the way that music is presented on Classic FM? Has the commercial station's curious promise to offer "classical music dressed by Bennett" been fulfilled? Simon Tait asked some of the leading administrators in the musical world for their verdicts on the first day's output:



Brian McMaster (Director, Edinburgh Festival): It is wonderful to have a classical music station, and we will have to get used to hearing music in bite-sized chunks. I didn't mind the commercials or the bits in between the music; they are the price we pay. I don't think we were supposed to hear someone saying to Henry Kelly (presenter of the mid-morning programme) "read it with a normal voice", but it is an indication of what was going on in the studio. Fuddy-duddies like me will have to adjust to the style.



Nicholas Payne (Director-designate, Royal Opera): My radio is permanently tuned to Radio 3, but my PA really believes that classical music in bite-sized chunks is going to be the trend. What I'm less relaxed about is that before the CD had finished the announcer was telling me about some lorry shedding its load. But when they put on Klemperer conducting the last movement of Beethoven's Pastoral, that was magical. I only wish they wouldn't keep on about "the most beautiful music in the world".



Nicholas Snowman (Artistic director, South Bank Centre): The advent of Classic FM will help Radio 3; the latter won't now have to worry about leaving the high ground in search of audiences, and BBC planners shouldn't lose their nerve about this. I hope that the Classic FM producers will trust the public a little bit more in the future and give them whole pieces instead of just short extracts or movements. Klemperer's wonderful interpretation of the last movement of the Pastoral Symphony only really makes sense if you know what has gone before. They could say, for example, "Here's an excerpt from the Pastoral, and we will be playing the whole piece at 5pm tomorrow."

fore, of necessity, limited to snippets, short works or extracts. This is an argument that will be used against it ad nauseum by musical purists.

But again — looking at it from the point of view of the working man or woman tuning in for a short time in the bath or over breakfast — the last thing he or she feels inclined to do is settle down for



Launch day: Henry Kelly presenting the mid-morning programme for Classic FM, the first commercial radio station in Great Britain to broadcast nationally



Peter Jones (Chief executive, English National Opera): An awful lot of hogwash is being talked about what Nicholas Kenyon is trying to do as Radio 3's new controller, and about him moving the network downmarket. Classic FM is making good music a reason to hang a popular commercial radio station on. It would be nice if they could do whole operas, perhaps further on in the day when a little more meat is required. If I have a negative comment about the first day it is that there were not enough arresting moments, other than the bomb at the Hilton. But there must be a tremendous market for Classic FM in supplementing what Radio 3 cannot do enough of.



John Willan (Managing director, London Philharmonia): Classic FM is very crisp, and the news is very professionally done. The whole slant of the station, and the feel of it, is different from Radio 3, but it certainly made me snapping my fingers and tapping my feet. I was prepared to have collections of pieces linked by a theme, but the music was so wonderful that if there was a theme I missed it. It's completely subjective as to whether one likes music like this — one piece after the next — instead of the Radio 3 format we are used to, but the two will fit well together. The best thing is that from now on there will be double the amount of classical music on the airwaves.

a leisurely appreciation of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. And there is a perfectly respectable tradition for programming snippets, as you can see if you look at the concert programmes of the last century, when it was quite rare for a long work to be performed in its entirety.

It all comes down again to the question of what you play, rather

than how much you play of it. Classic FM announces itself, with irritating regularity, as offering "the world's most beautiful music". But the morning announcer has a perhaps over-chatty style and feels obliged to supply us with "information" — the bane of modern life.

Before listening to a single movement from Tchaikovsky's Pathétique Symphony we have to

be told that the composer "had a tormented life", as if this is in some way going to enhance our enjoyment of the work. And after a Prokofiev extract he feels he has to say: "That music is used for a certain perfume advertisement; I'm sure you recognised it."

I will forgive them all these things, even the regular news of contrabass on the M4, if they really stick to their mission to broadcast "the world's most beautiful music". So far what I have heard has been more than acceptable: a movement from Mozart's Jupiter Symphony, a violin piece by Kreisler, even a movement from one of Bach's suites for unaccompanied cello.

There will be people — many of them, I imagine, working for Radio 3 — who will sneer at such an "undemanding" diet. I see nothing wrong with it. Personally, I would rather listen to a single movement from a Mozart symphony than to a whole batch of bassoon concertos by C.P.E. Bach.

Quite apart from that, we live in a world in which we are all in danger of being drowned by loud and degrading rock music, pouring out from almost every radio wavelength in the world, and applauded and analysed now even by "serious" critics in "serious" newspapers.

The arrival of Classic FM, providing a real alternative (however commercial, however scrappy) ought to be welcomed and supported.

Speaking of the great composers, Sir Yehudi Menuhin referred recently in *Gstaad* to the need for us to acknowledge "a debt to the great spirits of the past who are still part of our lives today and who thus contrive to protect and to rescue us from brutality, worthlessness and extinction". I see Classic FM, in a small way, trying to do just that.

TOMORROW

Clint is back. After a string of box office flops he has a hit on his hands, as the star of a savagely pessimistic Western

And lo, there came a warning about my stew

In times of stress, I firmly believe, you must reach for the family Bible, close your eyes tight, allow the book to drop open, and stab the page forcefully with a compass point wielded in a random arc. The idea is not just that the violence of the act will make you feel better (although it does), but that fortune will somehow guide you to a relevant helpful passage, while at the same time miraculously preventing you from impaling your other hand to the desk.

Superstitious? Certainly, and especially the last bit. But I am sure I have seen evidence of its efficacy, if only in the movies. You know: gangsters staring agape in shock when the book falls open at "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers xxxii, 23) just seconds before a curtain window is suddenly blown to smithereens a couple of feet behind them.

Anyway, spending a lot of time on my own, I sometimes devote the odd couple of hours to testing the theory of Bible-dropping, rather as if I were an infinite number of monkeys bent on disproving the notion of dramatic genius. The happy sound of "Wump! Slash! Ah-hah!" sometimes emanates from my flat all day long. Where other people might, as a matter of course, consult Patric Walker or the I

Ching (or Spillikins) before applying for a job or taking a trip abroad, there are days when I scarcely plan a journey to the post box without first securing some random canonical go-ahead from Deuteronomy in the Authorised Version.

I don't take it seriously, not really. But on the other hand I have had some pretty startling results. Take the other day. I had been experimenting in the kitchen again, and had concocted a rather interesting Lentil and Pink Marshmallow Bolognese in a saucepan. Obviously I now required guidance: should I take a picture of it before slinging it in the bin? I shut my eyes, flipped open the good book, poked it with the bread knife, and what do you think it said? It said: "What is this thou hast done?" (Genesis iii, 13). Blimey. How spooky. I tried it again. Wump! Slash! "Ah-hah!" And this time I got II Kings iv, 40: "There is death in the pot."

Sometimes the messages are a bit mysterious. Once, when I had been drawing losers for hours — "Go up, thou bald head" (?) — "And they spoiled the Egyptians" (?) — and wumping and slashing like an early agricultural machine in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, I suddenly got a rather grumpy-sounding "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly" (Proverbs

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss tried Bible-stabbing and saw that it was good



xxvi, 11), which drew me up short for a minute. Some significance here, perhaps? Naturally, I decided to have another go. And this time I got "The dog is returned to his vomit again" (II Peter ii, 22). Weird, eh? But completely unattractive, alas.

Anyway, the reason I mention all this is that I recently discovered a potential application for this unusual hobby of mine. Browsing in a

religious bookshop one rainy afternoon, and flicking through Bibles ("Why stand ye here all the day idle?" met my gaze immediately, so I knew things were running to form), I discovered a rack of biblical posters. And much as I dislike staid matters of taste, these posters were truly horrid — in the classical sense of making all your hair stick out like spines on a hedgehog. Who could be responsible for these ghastly things, I wondered. I could only suppose that the infinite number of monkeys had been up to their tricks.

I imagine, if you will, two large fluffy ducklings waddling away down a country lane at sunset, with underneath the legend "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" I mean, is this sick, or what? A pair of cute kids hold hands in a hush posture, bathed in summer light, and one holds out a daisy-chain to the other. "God loveth a cheerful giver," it says. Two tiger cubs embrace roughly, evidently mindful of the injunction of "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." I ask you, what a patry use of the imagination. I nearly produced some new vomit to come back to later on.

But on the other hand, I did rush home with a whole new sense of purpose. My idea was simple: take

this ghastly notion to its natural bathetic extreme. A man could be shown reprimanding a cat that has unaccountably stalked out of the room half-way through the *East-Enders* omnibus. "What," he says, in a speech bubble. "Could ye not watch with me one hour?" Good, eh? A woman, evidently frazzled from shopping, could be shown consulting a list in a dusty foreign market, and looking jolly peeved. "Is there no balm in Gilead?" could be written underneath.

I hope my posters will give pleasure somewhere. Meanwhile I shall cheerfully continue with my Bible-bashing. I got "We have as it were brought forth wind" the other day (Isaiah xvi, 18), and I can't say it hasn't given me lots to think about. An acquaintance has gently suggested to me that any big book — telephone directory, Argos Catalogue — will work equally well for my purposes, but I suspect this is a fallacy. Faced with a dilemma, surely nobody wants to know that the answer is an automatic pet-feeder, or "Mr H. MacGuire, 26 Fulwell Gardens, W6". Unless of course (by some remote probability) you are Mrs MacGuire, suffering from amnesia. Or you have suddenly acquired an infinite number of monkeys, all demanding meals at funny intervals.



BAGPIPES,
WHISKY,
TARTANS & TWEEDS.

NORTH SIDE OF
THE BORDER?

NO, SOUTH SIDE
OF PICCADILLY.

Simpson, that bastion of Englishness in Piccadilly, has suddenly gone a bit Scottish. From the 7th to the 26th of September, there'll be free whisky tastings on the third floor, kilt and sporran making demonstrations on the first and there'll even be rippling rock pools and fly-fishing tackle on the ground. You simply must drop in — even if it's just for a pair of Argyle socks.

DAKS Simpson
071-734 2002 PICCADILLY

The riches of embarrassment

Nietzsche put his finger on something in 1870. "In our day," he wrote, "only the farce and the ballet may be said to thrive." If you substitute the word musical for ballet, the same may be said of the West End today. *Don't Dress for Dinner*, by Marc Camoletti, author of *Boeing-Boeing*, is in its second year at the Apollo, while British farceur Ray Cooney's new play, *It Runs in the Family*, follows his record-breaking *Run For Your Wife*; it is previewing at the Playhouse.

Of all theatrical terms, farce is used most loosely and cynically. Andy de la Tour, the author of three political farces and translator of Dario Fo, describes how Fo's plays are always billed as farces even though, with the exception of *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!*, the description is false. They may have a madcap quality but not the genuine farcical motor and momentum. "The term is used to reassure people: it may be about a political subject, but don't worry, it's funny." To many audiences, laughter is itself a farcical litmus test. "Someone once said the sole purpose of farce is to get laughs," says Cooney, and that is a perfectly respectable ambition. People need to laugh, even in adversity, hence the traditional Jewish joke. Moreover, the first casualty of mental illness is a sense of humour. Writer John Mortimer goes further, seeing farce as the fundamental dramatic genre. "Most of life is farce. Whoever said history repeats itself first as tragedy, then as farce, was right."

The first generally accepted English farce is little more than a hundred years old. *The Private Secretary*, adapted from the German by Charles Hawtrey in the 1880s and starring Beerbohm Tree, was followed by the "Court" farces of Arthur Pinero; the most celebrated of which, *The Magistrate*, contains the archetypal farcical plot: the hero, a pillar of society, escapes in compromising circumstances from the police and appears in his own court, with a filthy collar and black eye.

As Sir Brian Rix, still popularly regarded as the prime stage expo-

With Ray Cooney
back on stage,
Michael Arditti
looks at what goes
into a good farce

nent of farce, puts it: "All farces have the same thread running through them, though they may be presented differently: people with reputations to lose caught in situations where they can lose them."

Farce is the most conservative dramatic form. "I'm writing the same thing that I was writing 30 years ago," admits Cooney. "The trimmings are more sophisticated, but the heart is still as naïve." De la Tour agrees: "Farce has more set rules than anything else; it's like a piece of music or a sonnet."

Yet de la Tour believes it does not necessarily need to be conservative in content. "You can make it about anything you want. Whatever the cover-up, whether it's a mistress in a cupboard or corruption in high places, it's still a farce."

The action is propelled by panic, as characters invent wild lies to save face. Then they have to deal not only with the original problem but also the lies, and hence behave even more bizarrely. The art of a master farceur is supreme, as Marcel Achard said of Feydeau: "It is not simple to combine the skill of a clockmaker, an inventor, a chess-player, a mathematician and a comic writer."

Despite the common ground of laughter, the world of farce is very different to that of comedy. "Comedy is to do with people saying funny lines," says Mortimer. "In farce, after the first ten minutes there's no time to make jokes; the laughs come from character and situation. The biggest laughs in farce are on lines like 'What?'"

In fact, farce is far closer to tragedy. As Ned Sherrin says: "It's the same complications: people put in impossible situations, but with different results." The discovery of

two simple items of clothing — braces and a handkerchief — can produce the very different dramas of *A Flea in her Ear* and *Othello*. Jumping into a grave is tragic in *Hamlet*, while tampering with a coffin is farcical in *Loot*. As Mortimer neatly defines it: "Farce is tragedy played at a thousand revolutions a minute."

This emphasis on speed is also of the essence, both in the construction of farce — Feydeau declared that "when in one of my pieces two characters must not meet, I bring them together as soon as I can" — and in the playing. Which is why so many writers, whether Ben Travers at the Aldwych, Rix at the Whitehall or even Peter Rogers and Gerald Thomas in the *Carry On* films, have relied on a stock troupe of actors. Instant identification saves time.

Cooney insists that farce needs the most generous actors. "There's no time to stand centre-stage making flowery speeches or intellectualising problems." Subtlety hampers speed. The result is to bypass normal audience identification. As Mortimer says, "The audience's response has nothing to do with fellow feeling, because the actors themselves have no feelings." It is, rather, recognition that we might be in the situation ourselves, coupled with relief that we are not.

Orton may have inverted it and Fo subverted it, but traditional farce still aims for the happy ending and endorses the status quo. Changes in social convention have been reflected in the humour, but the conventional virtues continue to be exalted. The central couple in *Don't Dress for Dinner* are rampant adulterers, but come the final curtain they trot merrily up to bed together.

However, they are French, and so by definition immoral. We may have appropriated French mays and French windows as farcical devices, but we have never embraced the French attitude to sex. In English farce, adultery is unacceptable; in French it is simply expensive. There may be more beds in Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce*



It Runs in the Family: Wanda Ventham (top left), Sandra Dickinson, William Harry, Ray Cooney

than in any Feydeau, and yet they are put to quite innocent use.

Despite such innocent pleasure, farce is frequently derided. In the 17th century Dryden declared that "the persons and actions of a farce are all unnatural and their manners false". His words would find many supporters today. Michael Frayn, author of *Noises Off*, sees such dismissal as self-protection:

"In laughing at it you have lost your moral dignity, and don't like to admit it afterwards — you don't like to concede the power of the people who have reduced you to such behaviour."

It remains the supremely theatrical genre. To sit raked with laughter in an audience of six or seven hundred is very different from titling to the earned laugh-

ter of a sit-com on television. Rix admits that bedroom farce is dead, but in other forms it radiates good health. So long as the lies are big enough, the plot convoluted enough and the person important enough, there will always be farce.

It Runs in the Family is in preview at the Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, London WC2 (071-839 4401), opening next Monday

ARTS BRIEF

Per Jodrell ad astra

THAT old showbiz hyperbole — "a star-studded spectacular" — can be used in a literal sense about the highlight of Britain's biggest new music event, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. It is the first British performance of Gérard Grisey's *Le Noir de l'Etoile* ("The Dark Side of the Star"), which requires the sound of pulsars tracked in outer space to be integrated into a live performance by six percussionists (Les Percussions de Strasbourg).

The pulsar sounds will be picked up by the Lovell telescope and fed by Jodrell Bank, via British Telecom "high-definition" circuits, across the Pennines to Huddersfield. The audience will also see a computerised light show of a suitably galactic nature. The Huddersfield Festival runs from November 19 to 29; the pulsars make their debut in Huddersfield Sports Hall on November 22.

Gritty stones

HAVING laid bare the ways and wiles of the London building site in his last film, *Riff Raff*, Ken Loach — creator of *Cathy Come Home* — is turning his attention to a Manchester housing estate for his next foray into gritty cinematic realism. Under the working title *Raining Stones*, it is an account of a young couple living on the dole and attempting to raise money to buy their daughter a communion dress. Loach begins five weeks' filming on the estate later this month, "working closely with local residents", and using a script by *Hidden Agenda* writer Jim Allen. That should be authentic enough: Allen used to live on the estate.

Last chance...

THIS week sees the end of summer — as defined by the closing for the weekend of the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park (071-486 2431). In fine weather the alfresco experience can be magical, and when the weather is dull at least the audience can feel heroic. Ian Talbot's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (final performance Saturday) is traditional and has been generally praised. And a revival of the Gershwin musical *Lady Be Good* (final performance tomorrow, with Bernard Cribbins, has proved a comic delight.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Newcomer a boon

While some national institutions appear to be intent on pressing the self-destruct button, a television drama series such as *Boon*, made by Central for ITV, can glide serenely into its seventh series. Michael Elphick's title character, Ken Boon, is up there with Lovejoy, Arthur Daley and Del Boy in the pantheon of popular television: although other characters may come and go, the presence of the lovable rascal is what keeps the millions watching, in confident expectation of a happy ending.

Last night's opener, burdened with the Hitchcockian in-joke title *MacGuffin's Transputer*, introduced a new "Girl Friday" character in the form of Saskia Wickham. The idea of a Girl Friday, who proves (gasp) brighter and more imaginative than her male employers but who (chuckle) sometimes gets herself into corners from which only a man can rescue her, is precisely in keeping with the time-warped world of *Boon*. Wickham, whose fresh, honest features and naturalistic style look like being a great asset to the series, will surely redefine "Auntie" as she grows into the role.

Peter Palliser's script was workmanlike at best, but there was sharp editing (Nigel Miller) and some quite excellent camerawork, including exterior interior tracking shots that extended the Hitchcock references. Director Nick Laughton thereby distracted attention away from some of

the more gaping holes in the plot, across which Wickham, Elphick and the other regulars Neil Morrissey and David Daker nimbly stepped. In pursuit of the guest villains Peter McNery (understandably on edge as MacGuffin) and Daniel Craig (superbly slimy as Wickham's duplicitous lover).

Old friends should not be judged as harshly as new, so let us forgive the absurdity of a 25-year-old "confidential secretary" (Wickham), in a provincial town, earning enough to live in a vast warehouse apartment, complete with well-stocked jukebox, mountain bike, personal computer and designer outfits ad lib. She does have a rich father, but angrily refuses to accept his money.

Understandably, with the emphasis on the new girl, the established stars were sidelined. The byplay between the maverick Elphick and solid Daker (who sounds bizarrely like Jack Woolley in *The Archers*) was briefly re-established, particularly by way of the following cryptic exchange. Elphick: "There's so many people unemployed." Daker: "I don't wanna talk politics, Ken."

Boon and Rocky (Morrissey) also sparred in character, gently, but with Morrissey having replaced Harry Enfield in the new series of *Men Behaving Badly*, broadcast immediately before *Boon* last night, viewers could be forgiven for some confusion.

TONY PATRICK



The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra: "We like to think we have minimised negativity and optimised potential"

All for one and one for all in New York's headless band

Hilary Finch meets a most democratic group, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, visiting London from America this week

There was once a New Yorker cartoon which depicted a group of pedestrians stopping to listen to a one-man-band street busker being conducted by a gentleman in tails. The conductor bows extravagantly to take the applause while the unacknowledged musician slumps with exhaustion on his stool.

Back in 1972 a New York cellist called Julian Fifer vowed to put a stop to all this conductor power, at least within one particular orchestra. So he founded the conductor-less and co-operative Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and however exhausting the democratic process, all 26 of them are still standing for their own ever-increasing applause.

Their visit to London this week celebrates 20 years of survival and evolution as a species. Legend has it that there was a time, in the heady days of the post-Sixties counter-culture, when members of this "headless wonder" sometimes couldn't see each other for their afro hairdos. With democratic stasis, a lack of majority voting and simple human nature getting in the way of ideological absolutes, the happy band have made some modifications to the functioning of their musical Utopia.

An executive committee of five musicians (three strings and two wind — a kind of conscientious proportional representation) is elected every two years. They, in turn, elect and appoint a concert-master, or concert-person as it is preferred: still a different one

for each piece that they play. All the violinists are asked to inform the committee of the pieces they are interested in leading in the year ahead. The committee is also informed of any background reasons why certain members may not have had a turn, or had one turn too many. Then the members of each section decide who is to be the principal for each piece. The chosen core of section leaders then meet to rehearse the piece, discuss bowing, articulation, use of rehearsal time; in short, all that the diligent conductor would be expected to do before a first rehearsal.

Too good to be true? "Well, some cores are better than others, of course," admits Fifer. "We have the whole range of traits that could be attributed to a conductor. But since 26 of us are involved we like to think we have minimised negativity and optimised potential."

That also sounds a little too slickly Madison Avenue. What of the games people play? "We've gone through the stage of the problem of extroverts and introverts and everyone getting his or her fair say. Our horn player Bill Purvis, for example, realised that, as an extrovert, he could use up his credit pretty quickly. He has to pace himself with his ideas just so people will listen."

And not everyone realises that there's an increase in

complex works by Bartók and Stravinsky are no problem for us. What is really difficult is the late-19th and early 20th-century post-romantic repertoire, which requires freedom and rubato in so many lines simultaneously. When everyone is so wonderfully expressive, the whole thing can be torn apart."

"We've spent most of our time developing this repertoire. We've worked forever on the Brahms A major Serenade and the *Stegfried Idyll*."

The Orpheus has hitherto deliberately ignored baroque and contemporary repertoire simply because there are so many specialist groups in New York. Now, they have changed their thinking. They have started to commission new writings, and this autumn release a courageous disc of music by four American composers: Jacob Druckman, Frederick Lerda, William Balcom and Michael Gandolf.

They have also dared to start on Handel with a recently released *Fireworks* and *Water Music*. Some members play in period instrument ensembles; others know nothing of it. The Concert Grossi is their homework for this year. "It will take a long time, though, to develop an interpretative style which will reflect us just as our approach to Haydn and Schoenberg does." The results are eagerly awaited.

● The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra plays at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) tomorrow and Saturday (with Alfred Brendel) and on Sunday (Cynthia Haymon).

RADIO REVIEW

Coming on Strong

Should the government fund the arts? In the first part of a new series, *Ministering to the Arts* (Radio 4, Sunday), Sir Roy Strong led on a troupe of worthies — Lords Goodman, Rees-Mogg and Palumbo, with sundry commoners — who gave us a history of the Arts Council since it was created at the end of the war.

We heard how the early arts ministers, like Jennie Lee, just handed money out for trust-worthy-sounding bodies without wanting to know too much about where it was going, because they were so fearful of being accused of bias. This went on until the Seventies, by which time there were so many claimants that the arts ministers, who were not in the Cabinet, could never lay hands on a fraction of the money the arts world wanted. Then, with Mrs Thatcher, came the onslaught. The Arts Council rushed to protect itself by concentrating on the regions in the name of urban regeneration and other respectable social aims. Even so, it was only because Norman St-John Stevas was Leader of the House as well as arts minister that he managed to keep the funds flowing under Thatcher. Now we have a "Minister of Fun" with a seat in the Cabinet — and nobody knows what will happen.

It was Sir Roy who turned all this into a thrilling drama. He was peppy with rage and excitement about every twist and turn in the struggle. He seemed to relish the ironies of the situation, rather than hold any consistent point of view, since at the beginning he was mocking the absurdity of the early Labour governments having no arts policy at all, and complaining about the arts ministers not being of Cabinet rank, whereas at the end he was practically announcing Apocalypse, now we have David Mellor there with so much power. "Mellor holds the key to the entire future of the arts in Britain!" he cried.

Actually, I don't believe the government seriously influences the history of art and culture at all. But it was a joy to hear Sir Roy conducting proceedings in his fine soprano: after the way in which television news-readers such as Michael Buerk conclude every sentence with a gloomy plonk, what a delight to have someone whose voice rises and trills like a lark as he ends each utterance.

However, another noted talker met his match on Radio 4 on Saturday. In the first of the new run of *Ad Lib*, Robert Robinson got in few jokes as he talked to five long-distance truck drivers. What they most enjoyed about foreign driving was "the crack" — the conversation and humour when they met in far-flung cafes and lorry parks — and they were so busy laughing together about bribing Turkish policemen and fending off gigantic prostitutes that we hardly heard Robinson's cheerful voice at all.

DERWENT MAY

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Schubert, Beethoven,
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The toad croaks its warnings

Günter Grass's latest novel is another protest against German unification, says Gina Thomas

A bloated toad glares out from the cover of Günter Grass's latest novel, *Unkenrufe*. The title means, literally, the call of the red-bellied toad and, metaphorically, Cassandra's warnings, because the curious bell-like croaking of these creatures is traditionally held to bode ill. An "Unkenrufer" is a prophet of doom; and with his gloomy vision of the world there is probably no more vociferous alarmist in Germany today than Günter Grass himself.

For all the criticism which his more recent works have provoked — and *Unkenrufe* is no exception — Grass has the distinction of being regarded, since Heinrich Böll's death seven years ago, as the Federal Republic's greatest living writer.

But the public also knows him as a political activist. From beneath that walrus moustache, which seems to grow denser with age, he is for ever sounding off on issues of the day, and his political preoccupations figure prominently in his writing. In the past his moral indignation was roused by Nicaragua, the Catholic church's stance on abortion, the destruction of the environment, the nuclear threat, disarmament, Ostpolitik, the Third World, Germany's struggle to come to terms with Nazism, and a host of other topics.

In the wake of the critical failure of his apocalyptic novel, *The Rat*, in 1986, Grass announced that he was dropping everything to go and live in India for a year, trumpeting his general disapproval of the state of affairs in the Federal Republic. But after barely five months in Calcutta he came back. He admitted that he was disillusioned by the philosophy of non-violence, "which is now as burnt out as our own European ideas".

Since the collapse of the former GDR, he has been one of the most outspoken critics of unification. With his solemn interventions often pronounced amid clouds of pipe smoke, Grass, who is approaching his sixty-fifth birthday, appears as the self-appointed moral conscience of the nation. In a recent interview he explained his constant "butting in", as he puts it, by stating that he was a citizen who paid taxes and that like any other citizen he wanted to know



Günter Grass: "there is probably no more vociferous alarmist in Germany today" — and his walrus moustache is growing denser

what happened to these taxes. But in the same interview he also staked a special claim as a writer, moaning that writers among others should have been consulted by the politicians in charge of the unification process.

"Precisely because of our work," Grass argued, "we know better than politicians that life is not divided into legislative periods."

Instead of immediate unification, which he, like many other critics, sees as an occupation by the mighty Deutschmark, Grass would have preferred a slow process of rapprochement, leading to a German league of states with a new constitution approved by the people. He believes that Auschwitz denies the Germans a right to a nation state for ever after, lest it lead to another Auschwitz — as if such horrors could only be perpetrated by a nation state. One need only look at Yugoslavia today for an answer to that.

Grass proposes a German cultural fellowship as a substitute for the unified state. This is of course not what the demonstrators on the streets

of Leipzig had in mind when they chanted "We are one people," eventually forcing the communist regime to cave in. Grass has openly criticised the Social Democratic party, of which he is a member, for not doing enough for the survival of the GDR.

Grass's literary fame rests largely on *The Tin Drum*, which came out in 1959 and has sold more than two million copies. Although the two works he published in the Eighties, *Headbirths* and *The Rat*, were panned by German critics, a new book by Grass is always an event. Long before *Unkenrufe* appeared on the market in May, the rights had been sold to 18 countries. Nonetheless, the new book was shrouded in mystery. Such is the author's paranoia after the bad reviews he has received that at first he wanted advance copies of *Unkenrufe* to be distributed only among a few selected reviewers who he felt sure would be sympathetic. This caused a furore and the publisher was forced to

relent. As had been feared, the reaction was largely negative, which Grass is bound to take as proof of his allegation that the German feuilleton is becoming inquisitorial.

The portentous toad in *Unkenrufe* is the latest addition to Grass's allegorical bestiary, which includes cats and mice, rats and snails, as well as a speaking flounder. The toad recurs as a leitmotif throughout the novel. *Unkenrufe* is a love story between a German widower and a Polish widow which begins in Danzig (now Gdansk), Grass's town of birth which is now part of Poland, on All Souls' Day in November 1989. "Just before the wall became redundant".

Much of the plot is a somewhat heavy-handed satirical metaphor for the German "takeover" of the GDR. The elderly lovers found a "German-Polish Cemetery Association" to enable Germans who were driven out after the war to be buried on home ground. Their modest plan becomes a booming business reminiscent of the cemetery in Evelyn Waugh's *The*

Loved One. The Cemetery Association is taken over by enterprising suppliers who build old people's homes for Germans wanting to be buried in their former territories; they also build bungalows and golf courses and a maternity unit for the younger relatives who come to visit the dead-in-waiting.

The widow and the widower are horrified and break off their links with the business. "This is no longer our idea," cries the widower in his resignation speech. "Now what was lost through war is being raked in again through economic power. Of course it's all happening peacefully. This time there are no armoured tanks, no Stukas in action. No dictator — only the free market economy rules." And the Polish widow adds in broken German: "Germans are always hungry, even when they are already full. And that makes me afraid." Once again we hear Grass, the arch-Cassandra, speaking.

Unkenrufe is published by Steidl at DM 38

THEATRE: VIENNA

Sissy is not sentimental

If the British obsession with royalty seems pathological, what is to be made of the fetishistic attachment of the Viennese to royals who have been dead for almost a century? Sissy — the Empress Elisabeth, wife of Franz Josef — was, perhaps, a 19th-century Princess Diana. At any rate, she married very young (at 16) before she could understand the restrictions royalty would impose upon her, then found her husband cold and distant. Tragedy entered the picture when their son Rudolf committed suicide at Mayerling. Her life ended in a kind of black farce when the anarchist Luigi Luchini, who was hoping to assassinate the Duke of Orleans, stabbed her with a file on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Most stage treatments of Sissy have been saccharine or romanticised: it is to the credit of writer Michael Kunze, composer Sylvester Leyay and director Harry Kupfer that this new *Elisabeth* at the Theater An Der Wien has some acerbic bite.

Much of the bitterness, and the Spenglerian sense of apocalyptic gloom, comes from Kupfer's stark but spectacular staging (with designs by Hans Schavermoch), with its predominantly sombre colours and its disorientating collisions of baroque splendour with images of modern alienation.

A monstrous, high-tech gibbet, looking like part of a suspension bridge, towers over one half of the stage; back-projections show familiar Viennese images (the Prater Big Wheel, Schönbrunn) but also blow-ups of grotesques prefiguring Gross or Dix. The aristocratic world in which Elisabeth moved is peopled with tottering marionettes who waltz like faulty toys.

The danger with this kind of galloping expressionism is the absence of any humanity with which the audience can connect. Fortunately, the Dutch-born singer-actress Pia Douwes is an expressive Elisabeth, giving the character a high-strung verve and energy which I suspect she did not

possess in reality. Douwes's voice is not sweet but hard-edged: just as well, since her big ballad, "Ich geh' mir mir", teeters on the brink of sentimentality.

No other character makes a comparable impact. Viktor Gernot tries hard to endow Franz Josef with depth, but the Emperor is never much more than a stuffed shirt. The most striking foil to Elisabeth is Uwe Kröger's Death, a camp, long-haired amalgam of David Bowie and Tazio in *Death in Venice*. Kunze suggests that Death is Elisabeth's real lover, but more sexual sparks fly when Death claims the doomed Rudolf.

At this point Elisabeth, who has shown no maternal interest in Rudolf before, launches into a fearful lament, "Wo bist du Rudolf?", which I fear caused me to chuckle in



High-strung verve: Pia Douwes as Elisabeth

cynical disbelief. Other scenes which strained credulity included a chorus of angry milkmaids and a Nazi rally. The latter seemed irrelevant, and brought the evening's only embarrassment. But maybe, in a city not much given to analysing its past, that was no bad thing.

HARRY EYRES

GARDEN FESTIVAL: CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE

Brilliant array of back-yards

Cinderella-sized pumpkins nestle snugly in the depths of rampant vegetation, whose untamed tendrils search out the ankles of passers-by. A steep hillside "planted" with a battalion of galvanised metal buckets becomes a solar energy-operated watercourse. Scented pine needles form a crackling carpet under a sinuous, slatted bamboo tunnel. Lush young grass forms a rejuvenating, contour-delineating skin over the body-

work of a derelict car. Weeds and chaos thrive happily alongside botanical rarities and regimented rows. Water trickles through an underground grotto, or hangs as a misty cloud over a duck pond.

At dusk, the beauty of nature is enhanced with a garland of fibre optics. Chaumont-sur-Loire's Festival des Jardins is no ordinary garden festival.

It was born of the desire of France's Minister of Culture and Education Jack Lang to revitalise national interest in gardens and landscape. It is the first of its kind to be held in France, and it deliberately eschews the horticultural *haute couture* usually associated with such events, in favour of a *prêt-à-porter* collection of contemporary back gardens, designed to inflame the imagination and tailored to fit everyday pockets.

Intended to become an annual event, the 3-hectare festival site is in the rolling parkland surrounding the handsome 15th-century chateau of Chaumont-sur-Loire. Seven months ago, the undulating site, which offers a superb view of the turreted chateau, was grazed by sheep. Today it is transformed — by the Belgian landscape designer Jacques Wirtz — into a mosaic of 25 self-contained plots, each roughly the size of

the average French back garden. Edged in shoulder-high hedges of clipped beech, the garden plots are shaped like the leaves of a tulip tree and connected by a network of sandy paths. From the air, this permanent layout looks like a series of leafy branches.

Landscape designers, gardeners and schools from around the world were all invited to create an ephemeral, autumn garden within one of the leaf-shaped plots, at a cost of not more than Fr 100,000. Tempestuous rain permitting, the gardens will be at the peak of their beauty — or their fascination — during the coming weeks.

Organised by the Jardin de la France, a distant offshoot of the Ministry of Culture, this first Festival des Jardins (also the first phase of a much bigger landscape and gardens programme, which includes the setting-up of a school like those at Kew or Versailles), has yet to acquire the professional patina of similar events in Britain: but it comes up with a pantheon full of ideas to try out at home.

DIANE HILL

● The festival runs until November 1. Full details are available from: Maison du Loir et Cher, Service Loisirs Accueil, 5 rue de la Voie du Chateau, 41000 Blois; Telephone (010 33) 54 78 55 50.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● AMSTERDAM: Borrowed from the Frits Lugt Collection in Paris, *Drawings From the Age of Bruegel* is a collection of 16th-century Netherlandish drawings of very high quality and offers a full survey of the artistic movements of the period. Works by the most important figures such as Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Jan van Scorel, Maertens van Heemskerck, Hendrick Goltzius and Jacques de Gheyn II are covered and the show includes superb portraits of Christian II of Denmark and the Emperor Maximilian I by Jan Gossaert and Lucas van Leyden respectively. Rijksmuseum, Stadhouderskade 42. Tel: (31 20) 6732121. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 1-5pm. Until Nov 8.

● BESANCON: The capital of Franche Comté is host to a major festival of orchestral and chamber music. This year brings visits from the St Petersburg Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons, Pascal Devoyon, Ton Koopman, The Tallis Scholars and the Vogler Quartet. Festival de Musique, 2d rue Isenbart, 25000 Besancon. Tel: (010 33) 81807326. Until Sept 18.

● LYON: This year's biennial takes its cue from the Olympics and Expo embracing a "passion of Spain" theme, aiming to present the full range of Spanish dance. Those interested in historical dance will find much here for them: the spectacular productions of 17th-century baroque dancing and traditional Spanish dancing. Also featured are the traditional dances of Andalusia, Catalonia and Galicia, and the great works and characters of Spanish literature which have influenced choreographers throughout the world. The biennial promises ten premieres introducing new talents. Informations: Maison de Lyon, place Bellecour 690002, Lyon. Tel: (010 33) 72402626. Sept 12-Oct 4.

Richard Gilbert makes his way round Dublin on a well-organised literary pub crawl

Bags of colour, pints of plain

Dublin's heartland of activity, Grafton Street, is packed at dusk with a crush of open-air entertainers, from jugglers to jug bands. A youth leans against a banner which boldly states: "I will recite poetry on request." The list of poets available is impressive — Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh and Heaney are among the listed repertoire. Taking up the challenge, I request "Digging" by Seamus Heaney. Without a pause, he stands upright and declaims:

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun...

After a word-perfect delivery of the complete poem he bows his head and I drop money in his hat and make for the Bailey, a nearby pub with strong literary connections. The writers and pubs of Dublin are inseparable and the Bailey is the appropriate starting-point of the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl.

From June to mid-September, five nights a week, two inventive actors take visitors to Dublin around four or five pubs and perform readings from Irish writers who have specific links with these bars.

For ES it must be the most ingenious crash-course in Irish literature, history, pub bonhomie and architecture yet devised. The brain-cells are simultaneously flooded with a few "balls of mail", as the creamy Guinness is dubbed, and stimulated by performances of writings from Joyce, Behan, O'Casey, Wilde and Flann O'Brien.

The work of Dublin writers has been inextricably linked with the city's finest pubs for many decades. The skill of actors Derek Reid and Gerard Lee from the Writers' Island company lies in combining this unique street theatre with the "crack" that makes Dublin pubs the liveliest in Europe, and successfully avoiding the tourist clichés that could ruin a fine evening of high art and low life.

At the Bailey, a sturdy audience of 60 sits in the room where Parnell once regularly dined. Gerard Lee breaks the ice with a boisterous version of the ballad, "Dixie Riley", followed by a brief account of Parnell's links with the pub and a reading of a relevant passage from Joyce's *Portrait*



Five pounds for the poetry: Derek Reid and Gerard Lee in the Long Hall pub, Dublin

of the Artist. The audience, which ranges from Austrians and Swedes to New Zealanders and a few Dubliners, refill their glasses, before the actors, using hats as their only props, tackle a scene from *Waiting for Godot*. They show the group the Bailey's most unusual literary memento — the front door of No 7 Eccles Street from *Ulysses*, rescued from a skip by John Ryan, poet and former landlord, and memorably unveiled by Patrick Kavanagh with the words: "I hereby declare this door shut."

The evening is not for the faint-hearted (an alternative afternoon walking tour is offered to those who prefer a slower pace and less revelry). The trawl through Irish literature moves on to Sean O'Casey: outside Mulligan's (founded in 1782 and reputedly last decorated in 1882) there is a spirited dialogue between Joxer and Boyle from *Junio and the Paycock*. "What is the stars? What is the moon?" cries Joxer, but by

now the "crack" has softened the hardest of heads to ask instead, "Where is the bar? Where is the stout?" Inside Mulligan's a woman upgrades my order from a glass to a pint, remarking that "A bird can't fly on one wing." As the pints line up, an Austrian language teacher debates how to translate "the Irish pub" into German with the correct gender; actor Derek Reid confesses that his nightmare is an audience for the literary crawl that speaks no English and drinks only mineral water, while a friendly Dubliner explains that the local word for a "wimp" is a "woos".

We weave towards the Palace in Fleet Street, where Gerard Lee pays tribute to Flann O'Brien's local with Shanahan's "pome" from the author's *At Swim-Two-Birds*. When money's tight and is hard to get. And your horse was also ran. When all you have is a heap of debt: — A pint of plain is your only man.

The crawl formally ends with more "pints of plain" at the roccoco extravaganza of the Long Hall bar in South Great Georges Street after an extract from James Plunkett's *The Risen People*. But many of the audience succumb to the unique brass and glass decor of the pub and stay "out on the rip" after the first performance. Clinking glasses of stout together, a Swedish neurologist and an Italian student toast the idea of the literary pub crawl as a rewarding way of studying Irish writers, while the Austrian translator wrestles with finding the most appropriate word for "crack" in German.

Outside the Long Hall, a local asks about the event. "A literary pub crawl? Then surely you must go round the corner to Behan's local — McDaid's. I'll tell you the simple truth about Brendan — he was a drinker with a writing problem."

● The Dublin Literary Pub Crawl continues until 17 September (Sunday to Thursday). For details, phone Dublin 540228 or 747733.

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THE TIMES

No dead, white, European males



Claire Buck, left, says her vast new anthology is a crusade to extend our awareness of the diversity of women's writing. Jonathon Green peruses its pages

Among those who toil amid the file cards, the databases, and the allied impediments of the reference book world, a certain trend has been noted: more and more women are joining the party. It started in 1982, with Susan Lloyd's substantial revamp of *Rogers' Theatricals*, continued three years later when Margaret Drabble compiled the fifth edition of Sir Paul Harvey's venerable *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, and has gathered pace ever since. Bloomsbury Publishing is particularly enthusiastic. Its own literary "guide", published in 1989, was edited by Marion Wynne-Davies. A forthcoming volume on erotica is in the hands of TV director-cum-sex educator, Jane Mills, and this month sees the *Bloomsbury Guide to Women's Literature*, the product of its editor Claire Buck and about 100 assorted experts, a scant half-dozen of whom are men.

Ms Mills' volume, doubtless pulsating with bygone "engines" and "grotes", not to mention today's less euphemistic nomenclature, is sure to engender more obvious frissons, but Dr Buck's is likely to set some reasonably rebarbative cats among the literary pigeons. What will irk such critics of course is the matter of quality, and certainly not quantity. This is a mighty tome, much — if not all — encompassing, a veritable doorstop: at 1,200 pages it will set library shelves groaning and it would be a very severely attenuated table leg indeed that would require its balancing services. Dr Buck and her team have assembled a daunting collection of authors and titles, moving through space and time from classical antiquity to the marginalia of today's feminine literatures, from the literary heartlands of Hampstead, Manhattan and the Left Bank to the relatively unsung outposts of the French Antilles and Aboriginal Australia.

Admirable stuff, encyclopaedic in its range, and few parallel volumes would attempt so all-embracing a collection. This is an omnium gatherum of staggering proportions, with 40 introductory essays and 5,000 entries all sedulously cross-referenced and replete with bibliographical and biographical information. As all concerned are keen to underline: no one has ever done this before. *Women's Literature*, while vaguely understood as a term, has never been subject to so massive a project. But quality? That may prove quite another story. The trick with reference works is to spot the omissions: there are probably precious few of those, but when it comes to what has been included, now there's the critical rub.

The problem of course, is that word "literature", grivd with value judgments, encrusted with centu-



Charlotte Brontë: double billing

ries of critical assumption, an essential accomplice to what the jargon of its own Eng. Lit. departments would term, the "grand narrative" and what the feminist lexicon would deride as the dictates of the "patriarchy". In other words, "literature", as generally accepted, is man-made and almost invariably created, assessed and consumed by the same small, cultural elite.

What Dr Buck has done has been to toss a weighty gauntlet in the face of all that. A solidly feminist work, her guide presents a calculated challenge to every assumption and proposes in turn a whole new range of questions. Dr Buck has no illusions: she is perfectly aware that the idea of a specifically "women's literature" is likely to raise predictable hackles, but sets the necessity for the project over such carping. "It is a strategic move. It comes out of the fact that 'literature' has traditionally meant men's literature. And what that pushed out of sight is both how many women writers there are and the fact that the writer's gender has made a difference to how the writing has been valued. It's always been more difficult for women to make their names in high culture."

She suggests that quality is a man-made concept quite specifically created to exclude literary women. Instead they are often relegated either to "women's writing" — its limits delineated by what contemporary (male) culture sees as an acceptable female role — or to such genres as romance, whether the genteel, the bodice-ripping or, euphemistically, the "sex and shopping" book buster. This guide accommodates Barbara Cartland, Danielle Steel and Jackie Collins as well as a vast swathe of unknowns who, in all

fairness, do occasionally make the unformed wonder whether there are but two grounds for inclusion: a) one is female and, b) one has written.

The dread phrase "politically correct" is nowhere on show, but its ethos permeates the book. Not so much through any linguistic censorship, but in what traditional critics will see as the wilful rejection of their own beloved beliefs. In many ways the whole book can be seen as the reification of its essay on "critical approaches" which starts with the question "how should feminists read?" Those whose ideas of high culture concentrate on the products of that bugbear of the ideologically pure, the "dead, white European male", and dismiss "mass culture" as a contradiction in terms, sniff at such soul-searching: what you read is the good stuff, and the good stuff is what we tell you. That is almost invariably male and white and European and, usually, six safe feet under.

Nor are such traditionalists automatically male. Glancing through Miss Drabble's work one sees scant deviation from the establishment norm. It is a preponderantly male line-up with only the usual female suspects: Aphra Behn, Jane Austen, the Brontës, George Eliot, Stevie Smith and Margaret Atwood for modern palates. Dr Buck and her team have assembled a very different dramatic personae. The superstars are there of course, but so too are legions of erstwhile muse, inglorious Ms Miltons.

Which illuminates a further problem. Is this "guide" a reference book, a companion or what? If the answer is "Huda Sha'rawi" or "the Mixquiahuala Letters" then what, one might wonder, is the question? The point of a reference book is to provide easy access and maximally useful information. What you do not need, on pulling it from the shelf, is a search through a preliminary essay before moving on to check your fact. So hold the reference category. But Dr Buck does not see it that way either. "It's really a mix of reference book, guide and companion. I aimed to create a book that different groups of people could use in different ways. It is designed as a literary companion for the general reader and, because there's no book like it that brings together this range of work, it also has a value for teachers and other academics," she says.

"Obviously a good deal of the material is unknown territory, as opposed to something like the *Oxford Companion*, but that's why the introductory essays are so essential. If it were just an A-Z of authors then you would never find your way around it. But the idea is



A is for Atwood: the Canadian author rubs shoulders with other stars of female literature and with some lesser-known writers

that if people wanted, say, to look up Chinese women writers, they would read the essay on China and get an idea on who to look up and then they could go through the cross-references to find them."

Miss Drabble's companion has its addenda too, essays pointing up such arcane as copyright law, the history of censorship and a perpetual calendar. Once more Dr Buck offers a very different perspective. Each expert has been allowed their say and indeed, in a book which requires at least a first degree for

useful employment, these essays, through which one may probe further into the individual entries, are an absolute necessity.

But over and above that, beyond reference or guide, is another concept, not generally allied to the non-fiction shelves: what we have here is reference work as feminist crusade. "We have to read these women ... we must change our attitudes ... One cannot describe a woman so soft spoken as strident, but that's the way such imperatives point. A crusade: certainly it is," Dr Buck

says. "The aim is to reveal as much as possible of women's writing and to make people realise that they have to take on more of this variety. Even though that may be difficult to assimilate, because we in the West are very bad at thinking beyond our own boundaries."

Read, mark, learn and outwardly proclaim is the message here. The literary times are changing and we had better keep up. Traditionalists may howl, but in today's world, cultural relativism rules. "It is not done well," snorted Samuel John-

son, no mean hand at the reference game himself, exclaiming female creativity, "but you are surprised to find it done at all." Hardly an opinion open to those who have scanned Bloomsbury's massy guide. Miss Sha'rawi, by the way, was an Egyptian feminist of the 1920s; the Mixquiahuala Letters is a novel by the Mexican Ana Castillo. One hears the sound of a lexicographer spinning in his grave.

● The *Bloomsbury Guide to Women's Literature* will be published on September 17. Price £25

The power of one South African

An academic is issuing a challenge to the post-apartheid system

Mamphela Ramphele is the dynamic embodiment of the new South Africa. She is the Black Consciousness leader, an academic, doctor and social anthropologist, and at 45 she is deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, laden with honours and one of the great and good.

She is in London to deliver the Canon Collins Memorial Lecture on "The Challenge of Change in South Africa" tomorrow evening, in the morning she launches *Restoring the Land*, the book on environment and change in post-apartheid South Africa for which she was consultant editor.

Dr Ramphele was named South African Woman of the Year in 1985 for her extraordinary transformation of a sad and dreary black resettlement area in Northern Transvaal into a thriving township which she had banished after the Soweto uprising of 1976. She was ousted from her post as founder medical officer of a black community health centre 1,000 miles away in King William's Town in the Eastern Cape, where she was involved, politically and emotionally, with Steve Biko.

She was pregnant with their child when the banning order was served, prohibiting her from being in the company of more than one person at a time, or from any social or political intercourse. Dr Ramphele is gregarious and enthusiastic, with a rasping voice and wild cackle of a laugh, she has been described as independent and bloody-minded, and the words formidable, forceful and brisk all apply. But the shock and loneliness of her banishment brought her

close to miscarriage, and she was in hospital when she heard of Biko's death in police custody.

"I was frantic to keep the baby," she said, "to keep alive something of our relationship, and of course the more agitated I became the more the threat of a miscarriage increased." Although she nearly died, and spent the last five months of her pregnancy in bed, "thinking about my misery, going through all kinds of destructive, non-productive emotions", their son was safely delivered. She named him Humelo, which means "shoot of a dead tree" in Xhosa: he was "the spitting image of Steve" and "from that moment I decided to turn my anger into action".

The hamlet of Lenyene lies in an impoverished rural area close to the great, grey, green, greasy Limpopo, hot, steamy and stultifying. The nearest town, Tzaneen, is noted for its oranges and lemons; it was only 12 miles away but, given the restrictions on Dr Ramphele, she might as well have been on the moon. She was the only doctor for miles but had difficulty in gaining the villagers' trust: they were warned not to go near her for fear she would seize their children and send them to be trained as terrorists.

She won the mothers' confidence and, despite their apathy and defeatism, started a medical clinic in a couple of rooms. She raised funds to build a proper community health centre called *Thuseng*, or *Help Yourself*, which became the nucleus of other self-help projects. By the time Dr Ramphele's banning order was lifted in 1983, the community — which had in-



Not afraid of her own success: Dr Mamphela Ramphele

creased from 20,000 to 50,000 — had two branches of the clinic in neighbouring villages, a library had been built and stocked, a scholarship fund initiated, and a co-operative brickyard employed 16 people and produced 20,000 bricks a month.

Although Dr Ramphele was free to leave Lenyene in 1983, she stayed on for another year to ensure that *Thuseng* ran itself. On Saturday afternoons she watched tennis and cricket on television, and — a bizarre by-product of her incarceration — she, who had never played either sport, became an expert on both. She also became a Bachelor of Commerce.

The following year found Dr Ramphele at the University of Cape Town, where she began her collaboration with Francis Wilson, professor of economics and director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit. (She had, by then, married and divorced a pharmacist, by whom she had another son.)

A shower of research awards and international conferences led to a stream of papers, publications and books on health, development, poverty, women, hostel dwellers, children, social welfare, education, anthropology, Anglicanism, sexism and violence. In 1989, she and Professor Wilson produced what may be

the most important book on South Africa this generation, *Uprooting Poverty — the South African Challenge* is a diagnosis of the condition of the country and prescription for its future. "Poverty is an evil that must be rooted out," they say. "Power lies at the heart of the problem of poverty in southern Africa. Without it, those who are poor remain vulnerable to an ongoing process of impoverishment."

Restoring the Land, published by the Panos Institute, shows how apartheid has played a major part in the devastation of South Africa's natural resources. Dr Ramphele notes "the rhetoric of the liberation movements suggests that they are bent on 'seeking first the political kingdom', with the hope that all other kingdoms would follow", whereas "the first principle guiding future action must be that the struggle against poverty and social justice are inextricably linked".

Dr Ramphele is not afraid of success. "Excellence is not a white value. It has been delegitimised over the years through Bantu education. To protect themselves from failure, a lot of black people have accepted mediocrity."

In the new South Africa, where a woman folk hero of the Black Consciousness movement is also deputy vice-chancellor of a university and a director of the Anglo-American Corporation, is it too far-fetched to imagine Dr Ramphele, mother of Steve Biko's child, as the first black woman president?

SUSAN LOPPERS

● The Canon Collins Memorial Lecture will be given at 7pm tomorrow, at the Assembly Hall, Church House Conference Centre, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1.
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Is co-operation the clue to women's success at bridge?

Bidding to be best in the world

Card games reaching the Western world from China in the 14th century were welcomed by women as a way of competing on equal terms with men. Bridge, the ultimate card game, long popular with women as a social pastime, has become a competitive sport, in which women contestants now match men in numbers and are approaching them in skill.

Britain's players of both sexes have a credible international record, but the women have won more medals. In Italy last week the women reached their second successive Olympiad final, losing narrowly to Austria. The British open team — this time all men, failed to survive the qualifying rounds, arguably in a stronger field.

The women's team comprised Nicola Smith with Pat Davies, Liz McGowan with Sandra Penfold, and Sandra Landy with the youngest member, Michele Handley, who figured in the television series, *Bridge With Zia*.

The reason why players excel in bridge can be hard to pin down. Whatever the women's talents, they do not add up to freakishness, despite the fact that to reach the Olympiad final you must be motivated to put in eight hours of concentrated thought every day for nearly two weeks.

All except Davies are married, five are career women, and four of these are mothers. They are unusual only in that all keen bridge players can seem slightly crazy to those who have never savoured the game. The six are all intellectually above average: McGowan gained a first-class

honours degree in Russian at Edinburgh and Landy capped an Oxford MA in maths with a postgraduate computing diploma at Cambridge.

Four were introduced to the game at an early age. Smith's parents were both championship players — her father Nico Gardener was world class — and Landy's were good county standard.

The question whether spouses should play together has engaged the minds of psychiatrists

The modern tournament player's fierce dedication does not seem strange to McGowan. Her grandparents, strict Presbyterians, put the cards away on Saturday night but would stay up for a few rubbers beginning at the stroke of midnight on Sunday.

In newspapers, bridge and chess often appear side by side, suggesting they are similar. However, bridge rewards co-operation as well as opposition, psychology as well as logic, and could therefore go with women's supposed preference for co-operation rather than confrontation.

Domestic bridge is at least partly a social game, but in world championships conditions are different. Screens

are placed diagonally across the table to prevent partners from seeing each other, and the bidding is conducted silently with printed cards.

Should spouses play together? The question has engaged the minds of psychiatrists as well as bridge players, and some are strongly in favour. Two egos that have learned to withstand the rigours of matrimony ought to survive the bridge table. The most famous partnership of all time was that of Ely and Josephine Culbertson, who personified bridge to the whole world in the 1930s.

Some partners even use bridge to purge domestic grievances. Once, after such an episode, the male half of the partnership left the table briefly. "Is he your husband?" an opponent asked sympathetically. "Of course he is," was the reply. "Do you think I would live in sin with such a bad-tempered man?"

The British team is exceptionally well adjusted. Two complementary partners are the sometimes excitable Penfold and the placid McGowan. They had to fit in long-distance commuting between Penfold's Yorkshire base, where she is a market researcher, and McGowan's Edinburgh home, to discuss their bidding system.

Shall we ever see an entirely female open team at the bridge Olympics? I think so. This year, for the first time, Mexico had more women than men on its open team. However, women may be less likely to develop the obsessive attachment that characterises top male players.

ALBERT DORMER

Queen's Bench Division

School travel costs policy unlawful

obliged to take account of parents' preferences: see section of the 1944 Act, now strengthened by section 6 of the 1980 Act.

The parents' wishes were important consideration but they were not the sole consideration and the education authority may conclude that they could make suitable arrangements for the child to be registered at a school closer to his home despite a conflict with the parents' stated preference, provided the authority took account of that preference in reaching its conclusion.

On the question of consultation the applicant accepted that there was no statutory obligation on the council to consult, but his Lordships

concluded that there was a legitimate expectation of consultation respect of a child at an extra-dist school already receiving transfers.

parental preferences, and section 55(4) of the 1944 Act led to the conclusion that education authorities should not have policies which

Privileged

ments of that kind to be brought under the umbrella of absolute privilege.

To do so would run the risk that employers and employees would go to town in allegations against each other.

It seemed healthy that the law libel should, in the limited way did, protect people about who things might be said. His Lordship saw no reason why there should

As to the public policy argument, his Lordship thought that that was

89) the council paid for her travelling expenses, causing to her

In his Lordship's judgment, the inhibition imposed on employees

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10/4/2017	UTILITIES	15.00	103		
10/5/2017	SALES	75.00	104		
10/6/2017	EXPENSES	30.00	105		
10/7/2017	INCOME TAX	12.00	106		
10/8/2017	SALES	80.00	107		
10/9/2017	EXPENSES	20.00	108		
10/10/2017	SALES	90.00	109		
10/11/2017	EXPENSES	10.00	110		
10/12/2017	SALES	60.00	111		
10/13/2017	EXPENSES	18.00	112		
10/14/2017	SALES	70.00	113		
10/15/2017	EXPENSES	22.00	114		
10/16/2017	SALES	85.00	115		
10/17/2017	EXPENSES	14.00	116		
10/18/2017	SALES	95.00	117		
10/19/2017	EXPENSES	16.00	118		
10/20/2017	SALES	65.00	119		
10/21/2017	EXPENSES	24.00	120		
10/22/2017	SALES	78.00	121		
10/23/2017	EXPENSES	19.00	122		
10/24/2017	SALES	88.00	123		
10/25/2017	EXPENSES	17.00	124		
10/26/2017	SALES	92.00	125		
10/27/2017	EXPENSES	13.00	126		
10/28/2017	SALES	72.00	127		
10/29/2017	EXPENSES	21.00	128		
10/30/2017	SALES	82.00	129		
10/31/2017	EXPENSES	15.00	130		
11/1/2017	SALES	98.00	131		
11/2/2017	EXPENSES	11.00	132		
11/3/2017	SALES	68.00	133		
11/4/2017	EXPENSES	23.00	134		
11/5/2017	SALES	77.00	135		
11/6/2017	EXPENSES	18.00	136		
11/7/2017	SALES	87.00	137		
11/8/2017	EXPENSES	16.00	138		
11/9/2017	SALES	97.00	139		
11/10/2017	EXPENSES	14.00	140		
11/11/2017	SALES	74.00	141		
11/12/2017	EXPENSES	20.00	142		
11/13/2017	SALES	84.00	143		
11/14/2017	EXPENSES	19.00	144		
11/15/2017	SALES	94.00	145		
11/16/2017	EXPENSES	17.00	146		
11/17/2017	SALES	76.00	147		
11/18/2017	EXPENSES	22.00	148		
11/19/2017	SALES	86.00	149		
11/20/2017	EXPENSES	15.00	150		
11/21/2017	SALES	96.00	151		
11/22/2017	EXPENSES	13.00	152		
11/23/2017	SALES	73.00	153		
11/24/2017	EXPENSES	21.00	154		
11/25/2017	SALES	83.00	155		
11/26/2017	EXPENSES	18.00	156		
11/27/2017	SALES	93.00	157		
11/28/2017	EXPENSES	16.00	158		
11/29/2017	SALES	75.00	159		
11/30/2017	EXPENSES	24.00	160		
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12/4/2017	EXPENSES	23.00	164		
12/5/2017	SALES	79.00	165		

Southwestern after the summer? Best Time? Best Place? Best

BBC1

- 6.00** *Ceefax* (16731)
6.30 *BBC Breakfast* News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (7119915)
9.00 *Major Dad* American comedy series set in an army camp (6550170) 9.30 *Wildlife Safari To Ethiopia* The series continues with a look at the problems involved in setting up a new national park (7119915)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (4875335) 10.05 *Playdays* For the very young (5) (9687373) 10.25 *Barney* Cartoon adventures (7) (4878422) 10.35 *Hudson and Halls* The camp Kiwi cooks are joined by Vicki Mitchell from 'Allo 'Allo' (7) (5524731)
11.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8343151) 11.05 *The High Chaparral* Vintage western series (7) (3057335) 11.30 *The History Man* Bryan MacArthur explores the prehistoric, underground site of Cam Rung in Cornwall (5446118)
12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7342996) 12.05 *Summer Scene* presented by Carol Keating and Linda Mitchell from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale (2467538) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather (9594606)
1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) (4313557) 1.50 *Eldorado* (7) (Ceefax) (5) (4504764)
2.20 *Hawaii Five-O* Steve McGarrett and the Five-O team hunt for a gang of kidnappers. Starring Jack Lord and James MacArthur (5550844) 3.10 *Pot Black* Timeframe. The second heat of the pot-black snooker competition (9745338)
3.35 *For the Love of Birds* An RSPB film about how the organisation became the biggest wildlife conservation charity in Europe (3922002)
4.05 *Cartoon* featuring Bugs Bunny (7) (6705538) 4.10 *Potsworth & Co.* Animation (7) (6775577) 4.35 *Tricky Business* The last part of the children's comedy series starring Bernie Clifton (7) (8911828)
5.00 *Newsround* (3945248) 5.10 *Grange Hill* Drama series set in a secondary school (7) (Ceefax) (5) (3694880)
5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (Ceefax) (5) (454460) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. (Ceefax) Weather (793)
6.30 *Regional News* (373) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 *Eldorado* (7) (7712)
7.30 *Film: Clue* (1985) starring Tim Curry. Black comedy loosely based on the board game "Cluedo". Six blackmail victims arrive at a mysterious, isolated mansion. They soon discover it is the perfect setting for a murder. Written and directed by Yes, Minister co-author Jonathan Lynn. (Ceefax) (40083)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2489)



Bereaved: Fao Mui grieves for her dead husband (9.30pm)

9.30 Inside Story: In Cold Blood

CHOICE: Returning for a new series, the BBC1 documentary strand revises the controversy surrounding the shooting of 24 villagers by British soldiers during the Malayan emergency in 1948. The official line was that the victims were communist terrorists (the newspaper's report called them bandits) and the action was acclaimed as a significant victory in the war. Malayan survivors, however, claimed that the dead were unarmed rubber tappers shot in cold blood. The case resurfaced in 1970 when the British government ordered a police inquiry. This was mysteriously closed when the Conservatives won the general election. The truth may never be known but this film draws on eye-witness accounts and previously unpublished statements of soldiers involved to suggest that the 24 were indeed innocent civilians. (Ceefax) (961460)
10.20 *Sportsnight* introduced by Desmond Lynam. Football highlights from the friendly match between Wales and England in Santander and the world cup games between Wales and the Faroe Islands, Northern Ireland v Albania and Scotland against Switzerland (961847) 12.20am *Weather* (1770584)

BBC2

- 6.45** *Open University: Herod and Judaea* (6152880). Ends at 7.10
9.25 *Wife, Love or Draw* Celebrity game show hosted by Denny Baker (5596354) 9.55 *Thames News* (7060083)
10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott continues with his week-long discussion series examining the state of marriage in the 1990s (7330118)
10.40 *This Morning* Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on consumer affairs, family law and herbal lore. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (9666525)
12.10 *Allsorts* For the very young (7) (5100002)
12.30 *Lunchtime News* (Oracle) Weather (2178731) 1.05 *Thames News* (2444606)
1.15 *Home and Away* Australian family drama series. (Oracle) 1.45 *A Country Practice* Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (7) (229002)
2.15 *Graham Kerr* The Antipodian chef prepares a low fat, low calorie meal with a twist (21083) 2.45 *Take the High Road* Drama series set in the Highlands (4440426)
3.10 *ITN News* headlines (4877557) 3.15 *Thames News* headlines (4878828) 3.20 *The Young Doctors* Drama series about the patients and staff of an Australian city hospital (5972170)
3.50 *Cartoon Time* (377538) 3.55 *Scooby Doo* (5457809) 4.20 *Grognags* A new series starring Carol Lee-Scott as the green-haired witch (8123267) 4.40 *Woof!* Comedy series about a boy who changes into a dog at the most inconvenient times (7) (Oracle) (5) (9591793)
5.10 *Blockbusters* General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes (9259441)
5.40 *Early Evening News* (Oracle) Weather (790809)
5.55 *Thames Help* (7) (566422)
6.00 *Home and Away* (7) (Oracle) (489)
6.30 *Thames News* (441)
7.00 *Take Your Pick* Des O'Connor with another edition of the yesho game show (5) (2880)
7.30 *Coronation Street* It is the day of the bows final and Alf Roberts is worried that Percy has already had four consecutive wins. Starring Bryan Mosley and Bill Waddington. (Oracle) (525)
8.00 *The Darling Buds of May: A Breath of French Air* A typically wet English summer convinces the Larkin family that they should take their holidays in France. A two-hour special concludes the re-run of the comedy series based on the novels by H.E. Bates, starring David Jason and Pam Ferris. (Oracle) (5) (4712)
10.00 *News at Ten* (Oracle) Weather (50828) 10.30 *Thames News* (194083)
10.40 *Film: The Holocaust* (1985) starring Michael Caine, Anthony Andrews, Victoria Tennant and Lilli Palmer. Far-fetched thriller, based on the novel by Robert Ludlum, about one of the offspring of three Nazi generals who, 40 years after their suicide, is summoned from New York to Geneva where \$4 billion awaits him, to be distributed supposedly to make amends for their war crimes. Directed by John Frankenheimer (9377731)
12.45am *Hollywood Report* Gossip from the movie capital, presented by Richard Johnson (14126)
1.15 *Film: The Satanic Rites of Dracula* (1973) starring Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing. A feeble horror movie about a police investigation into a black magic cult that leads them to a mansion owned by a property speculator. Directed by Alan Gibson (508213)
2.45 *American Top Ten* (7) (96100)
3.15 *VideoFash* Top ten video releases designed (29481671)
3.40 *Quiz Night* Pub and club quiz competition (74216497)
4.10 *Grand Ole Opry* Country and western music from Nashville, Tennessee (7) (10330403)
4.40 *Fifty Years On* (b/w). Vintage newsreels (88506768)
5.00 *Thames Company* American domestic comedy series (84478)
5.30 *ITN Morning News* (11403). Ends at 6.00

ITV

- 6.00** *TV-am* (5992335)
9.25 *Wife, Love or Draw* Celebrity game show hosted by Denny Baker (5596354) 9.55 *Thames News* (7060083)
10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott continues with his week-long discussion series examining the state of marriage in the 1990s (7330118)
10.40 *This Morning* Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on consumer affairs, family law and herbal lore. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (9666525)
12.10 *Allsorts* For the very young (7) (5100002)
12.30 *Lunchtime News* (Oracle) Weather (2178731) 1.05 *Thames News* (2444606)
1.15 *Home and Away* Australian family drama series. (Oracle) 1.45 *A Country Practice* Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (7) (229002)
2.15 *Graham Kerr* The Antipodian chef prepares a low fat, low calorie meal with a twist (21083) 2.45 *Take the High Road* Drama series set in the Highlands (4440426)
3.10 *ITN News* headlines (4877557) 3.15 *Thames News* headlines (4878828) 3.20 *The Young Doctors* Drama series about the patients and staff of an Australian city hospital (5972170)
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7.00 *Take Your Pick* Des O'Connor with another edition of the yesho game show (5) (2880)



Bowling along: a confident Percy (Bill Waddington) (7.30pm)

- 7.30** *Coronation Street* It is the day of the bows final and Alf Roberts is worried that Percy has already had four consecutive wins. Starring Bryan Mosley and Bill Waddington. (Oracle) (525)
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5.00 *Thames Company* American domestic comedy series (84478)
5.30 *ITN Morning News* (11403). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** *Channel 4 Daily* (5990977)
9.25 *The Lone Ranger* (b/w). Classic western adventures starring John Hart as the eponymous hero (6503644)
9.50 *Get Set, Sport!* Sporty series (9188422)
10.20 *Film: Doctor's Orders* (1934, b/w) starring Leslie Fuller, Ronald Shiner and John Mills. Dated British comedy about a medical student who discovers that his father is a carnival quack. Directed by Norman Lee (8360915)
11.35 *The King's Stamp* (b/w). The story of the production of King George V silver jubilee stamps (2694606)
12.00 *Movie Winners* Australian children's drama series (7) (88199)
1.00 *Sesame Street* Pre-school learning series. The guest is Cagney and Lacey actress Tyne Daly (7) (88737)
2.00 *Great Russian Writers* A Russian-made documentary biography of Vladimir Mayakovsky. Narrated by Alan Dobie. (Teletext) (6862698)
2.25 *Channel 4 Racing* from Doncaster. Brought Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (34267335)
4.30 *Countdown* Another round of the words- and numbers game, presented by Richard Whiteley (538)
5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* This edition offers Jilted lovers the opportunity to ask the former partners why they left (7872880)
5.50 *The Bunbury Tails* Animation (589373)
6.00 *Treasure Hunt* Anneka Rice scampers breathlessly across Lincolnshire in the search for hidden treasure (7). (Teletext) (87083)
7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Teletext) Weather (562625)
7.50 *Comment* (56815)
8.00 *Brookside* Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (5) (9170)
8.30 *Anton* Mosimann - Naturally. The chef prepares a simple, alcoholic, fondue in the Emmentaler Alps (7) (5977)
9.00 *Tornado Down: A Cutting Edge Special*
 CHOICE: On the first day of the Gulf war an RAF Tornado bomber crewed by pilot John Peters and navigator John Nicol was shot down in the Iraqi desert. The men were captured, brutally interrogated, paraded on television and released only after spending more than six weeks in captivity. In *Tornado Down* Peters and Nicol tell their story. Apart from lightly selected elements of reconstruction and occasional inserts of news footage, this remarkable film consists entirely of two tapes of the men's treatment which works triumphantly. Indeed Peters and Nicol have such a vivid and detailed recall that the piece could have been almost as effective on radio. At the heart of it is the men's courageous determination not to break down in face of a controlled physical assault by their captors. (Teletext) (2933083)
10.05 *The Golden Girls* A delicious humour from the Miami matrons (7). (Teletext) (283354)



Mark host, Jenny Edgar finds new comic talent (10.40pm)

- 10.40** *Packing Them In* A new series of comedy and variety acts hosted by Jenny Edgar and Frank Skinner (514898)
11.25 *Mojo Working* A showcase of songs by John Lennon (5) (546422)
11.55 *The Steve Allen Show* (b/w). American comedy series from the 1950s. Tonight's guests include Milton Berle and Elvis Presley (975170)
12.25am *Film: Bhramacharya* (1988). Director Ramesh Sippy explores corruption in Indian institutions that were once held sacrosanct by the masses - politics, religion, the judiciary and the police (4532331). Ends at 3.40

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to view a particular programme at a particular time. Video PlusCode can be used with most video recorders. For more details on how to use Video PlusCode, see the video recorder's manual. For more details on how to use Video PlusCode, see the video recorder's manual. For more details on how to use Video PlusCode, see the video recorder's manual.

SATellite

SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Marcompa satellites
6.00am *The D.I. Show* (6661266) 8.40 *Pat Heywood* (9527731) 9.30 *Business Report* 12.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 2.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 3.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 4.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 5.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 6.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 7.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 8.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 9.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 10.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 11.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 2.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 3.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 4.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 5.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 6.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 7.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 8.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 9.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 10.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 11.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 12.30 *Good Morning America* (41557) 1.30 *Good Morning 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